

Welcome to the New Paradigm

People were incredulous at the
Nuremberg trials, when those
Who murdered millions in
The gas chambers claimed they
Were just following orders.

When decent human beings are
Desperate for a job that pays them
Enough to live on, support their
Families and put a little away for
Retirement, moral imperatives evaporate.

The horrendous conditions under which
Prisoners now spend their entire lives
For crimes which once meant only 5 or
10 years, are magnified by the
Indifference of those who say
"I'm only doing my job."

And it doesn't help that the only way
They can get a promotion is by
Taking something away from us,
Instituting a more draconian policy
Or building a new prison.

It's the new slavery of the 21st century
Where old-style oppression is cloaked
In today's psychobabble and our only
Worth as human beings, is judged by
Our ability to fill a prison bed.

Harlan Richards