

**THE GREEN PEOPLE AND THE PURPLE PEOPLE**  
**Excerpted from Duke Ellington's "My People"**

The Purple people lived in the fat Green Valley.

The Green people, their neighbors, lived in the Purple Mountains -  
Rich grape country.

The Purple people had cattle and all kinds of vegetables -  
They lived on the fat of the land.

The Green people had sheep and wine -  
They lived on the fat of the land.

But.....as usual,

Downstairs looked better to the Upstairs people, and  
Upstairs looked better to the Downstairs people.

So, to improve their living standards,  
they both declared War on each other.

They fought battle.. after battle.. after battle..... until they both won.

The Purple people won the Purple Mountains, and  
the Green people won the Green Valley.

But... neither side was satisfied.

Because of the confusion:

The Green people with the Green scenery,  
and the Purple people with the Purple Background.....

Why... they couldn't tell the houses from the trees,  
or, the people from the animals.

They both felt that they had won a profitless, empty victory...  
so, back to War they went.

And finally,  
at the end of THIS War, in which they both lost...

They all were dead.

There was blood everywhere.

But there was no Purple blood...  
and there was no Green blood.

All the blood was RED.

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Roses are RED  
Violets are BLUE  
Tulips are for kissing  
And here's one for YOU!!!