

## From Wounded Knee to Afghanistan

by reese *Thursday, Mar 17 2011, 12:48am*

international / poetry / post

**(inspired by a poem by Larry Kerschner)**

when people  
are taught  
to walk backwards  
believing it normal;  
when their faces  
no longer confront  
the bright light of day

when they turn their heads  
callously away  
from their neighbours' woes  
and cries for help

when willingly the people accept  
crime  
corruption  
and deception from government  
and hide their eyes  
from reality  
to huddle instead  
before dream boxes  
marketed as 'entertainment units'  
know  
the time has arrived.

when the old, decrepit and dying  
force children to fight as soldiers  
and turn infants into gravediggers;

when crimes are committed  
openly  
in the bright light of day  
by those whose job  
it is to uphold order

when rich plutocrats  
regard the people  
that slave (for them incessantly)  
as expendable beasts of burden  
and mock them contemptuously  
by demonstrating how easily people are robbed

of their taxes, savings and the pittance their earn

[when justice weeps and babes die]

it's time to wash your hands  
in tears and blood

darkness and calamity  
are about to envelop the globe

our stallions  
toss their heads in wild abandon,  
and gallop freely;  
no saddle has ever  
burdened their backs

everyone fulfils their role  
for the greater good of all  
walking forward together  
OUR faces go before us  
and confront  
the bright light of day

know that it's time to re-align  
and remove the poison  
that steals men's spines  
and turns lovers into enemies

it is time to do or  
die

**Larry Kerschner's original:**

walking backward  
my hidden face  
does not go before me  
I cannot see  
the dogs of war  
I hear  
salt  
blood and tears  
dripping down  
I hear  
children become gravediggers  
howling  
boy soldiers flung into the dark  
I hear  
the knife  
tearing cartilage between

the ribs

I hear two lovers  
one is walking backward

<http://cleaves.zapto.org/news/story-2390.html>

🔊 [Sweet Lullaby - Deep Forest](#)

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article27691.htm>

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-175.html>