

## **A child is born in Amerika**

by dan *Saturday, Apr 9 2011, 11:05am*

international / poetry / post

As a child you brutally abused me,  
physically and psychologically  
to keep me on the 'straight and narrow,'  
it was 'for my own good,' you said  
but you were blind to the fact that  
the universe is limitless and  
expands in every direction!

As an adolescent you taught me  
that my awakening body was 'filthy,'  
its natural tendencies and sensations  
were to be shunned, loathed and repressed  
when all around me terrestrial life flourished  
in natural harmony.

As a young adult you taught me that  
I was indebted to the nation for everything  
it had 'given me;'  
I had responsibilities, you said!  
You put a gun in my hand  
and taught me to kill for peace and democracy;  
so I repaid my debt by murdering our 'enemies'  
and ruining their land and nations --  
I did it to 'keep us safe!'

I did my duty and returned home  
to work for the Corporations  
until they outsourced my job  
and made me redundant.

I learned to live on crumbs  
left from the banquet tables of the rich  
but I did not complain, because I had been taught  
that America was just and fair,  
it was other nations that made slaves  
of their populations.

I was taught that my plight was due  
to personal failings not an inherently unfair  
system; I needed to try harder  
to become a success.

One day I lost my wife and child  
in a 'terrorist' attack;  
a citizen of the nation in which I had fought  
had sworn to avenge His  
slaughtered family.

But that war was just  
I had been told, as are all the wars  
our nation wages -- God is on OUR side,  
I had been assured.

Today I am a broken and ruined man;  
my doctor says I can feel proud  
that I 'achieved something;'  
I had lost my sanity and everything  
I held dear to keep our nation safe.

In my twilight years  
I wear my medals proudly  
and put my hand on my heart when  
the anthem plays  
they let me raise and lower the flag  
in the old people's home  
where I live with all my friends.

<http://cleaves.zapto.org/news/story-2437.html>

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-179.html>