

From Here to There and Back Again: Some Notes From the Journey

By Jim Carlton

Fear in Silence

Three in the morning,
awakened groggy,
frightened, can't determine
what aroused me from sleep.

Bedroom pitch dark,
no street light outside
projecting its faithful
rays through my window.

No soft orange glow
from the numbers on
the digital clock perched
on the night stand by the bed.

No glimmer from the night light
in the darkened hallway,
always faithful in the past
to lead me safely in the night.

As my brain transitioned
from its sleep-induced fog,
I became aware the
electric power was out.

It was not noise that had
startled me from sleep this
early morning, rather it was
silence that was the culprit.

Startling silence, as if someone
had fired a gun near my ear,
a reflection, I thought, of the
confused state humankind was in.

Silence, perhaps therapeutic
to troubled minds in the past,
was now frightening, no longer
acceptable to us in this noisy world.

Bio

Jim Carlton has participated in the Veteran's Writers Group in Lincoln, Nebraska, since its inception in 2014.

Jim is an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served onboard the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga, which was involved in Naval combat operations off the coast of Vietnam and in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam War.

Jim is retired and lives in Lincoln with his wife and dog, Maggie. He has written these poems over a span of years. They have all been presented at the VA Writer's Group and have been edited and rewritten based on feedback and suggestions from the group.