

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

By Jim Carlton

Just a Few More Steps

Only a few more steps down the road
until the light will turn to dark,
or maybe just the opposite when
the dark will be absorbed into light.

A light which maybe will guide me into
eternity and peace, away from this earth,
where I've seen and experienced
too much pain, weeping and sorrow.

For this world has often seemed hostile
to me even though I've witnessed plenty
of beauty in mountains, on the plains
and on the other side of far-reaching seas.

Yet destruction has reigned even inside
this beauty as fire thundered from the sky,
melting the beautiful into charred, scarred
nothingness or leaving bits of rubble at best.

Even the clouds have poured out too much water,
causing streams and rivers to overflow their banks,
turning the beauty into nothing again,
as mud has covered the cities man has built.

And the blue sea has turned red from all the blood
gushing from wounds inflicted by brothers and sisters
who claim they must make this pain in some holy
name or ideology given by a god only to a chosen few.

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.