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For Peace

Robin Schneider
Denison University

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For Peace

Women's ways of knowing
of speaking in a different voice
learning to hush and to comply
reminded of their mute status
patriarchal hammer banging women's heads
father's fists sealing daughters' lips
educated women
fearing repercussions that accompany success.

Silent women, afraid
voices kept in locked rooms
mothers' muffled words
and fathers' shouting
brilliant gifted women
qualified and frustrated
denied a chance to speak
to live in harmony with the world
as they see it.

It is the men who speak
and who are heard
taught aggression from childhood
dressed in blue for courage
pink for sin
men decide whose voices are weak
whose will be heeded
and ignored.

Playing with guns
with chemicals
with young boys' lives
mothers' sons
nations' futures
these men
spilling oil in to beautiful seas
bombing cities
fighting wars with others' lives.

I have a question
what of the women's voice?
if it was heard
if people listened
if it COUNTED
outside of the nuclear unit
we call home
would there be war?
would people be dying?
would shores be blackened with oil
if women ran the world?

Sympathy, empathy, compassion
thoughts for others first
things men call weak
be strong!
fight to the top!
care for nobody
but yourself
just get there
strong and competitive
this dog-eat-dog-world.

Rid the earth
of these foul dogs
leave the world to pansies
crybabies
the selfless, the concerned
before all is destroyed
gender roles, stereotypes
designed to keep women weak
continue the capitalist, patriarchal, oppressive regime
Society
competition
greed and power
this country that has got itself into a war
out of control.

Women's ways of knowing
and speaking in a different voice
attempting to avoid conflict in sandboxes
while boys fight for new rules
would find resolution
compromise
anything to avoid the hurt
would remember to consider
who is going to die.

Robin Schneider