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Editor's Note

James R. Adair

This year marks the centennial anniversary of the start of World War I. More than sixteen million people, soldiers and civilians, died during the four year conflict that engulfed the globe. In all, the war resulted in almost 40 million military casualties: dead, wounded, and missing. Despite also being called the War to End All Wars, it did nothing of the kind, for out of the embers of the Great War roared the conflagration of World War II, the most devastating conflict in history.



This issue of *Voices de la Luna* explores the themes of war and violence on the one hand, and peace and reconciliation on the other. Our featured poet, Moby Warren, shares poems inspired by current and recent conflicts, and our featured interviewee, Robert Flynn, reflects on how his experiences with wars in Korea and Vietnam influenced his thought and writing. Many individual contributions, both prose and poetry, also deal with themes of war and peace. Poets from the era of World War I, several of them soldiers in the conflict, share their poems on the pages that follow, and selected poets from other eras also weigh in on one of the most profound issues of our time, or any time.

The topic of war and peace has drawn the attention of many of the greatest minds in history, from the ancient Sumerian *Epic of Gilgamesh*, to Sun-tzu's *The Art of War*, to Augustine's musings on the notion of a just war (there is no such thing, IMHO), to the visionary writings and lives of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dag Hammarskjöld. Many of the world's greatest religious texts also deal with the topic, often in surprising and ambiguous ways. One prophet in the Hebrew Bible instructs his listeners to beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks, while another prophet urges just the opposite. In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna instructs Arjuna, "Do not get angry or harm any living creature, but be compassionate and gentle; show good will to all," yet the entire story is set on a battlefield. The Quran contains both "sword verses" sanctioning armed conflict and "peace verses" advocating peaceful coexistence. Even the New Testament, which portrays Jesus as the Prince of Peace, ends with the image of war led by none other than Jesus himself.

Finally, war and peace have been the subjects of artistic and literary works from the earliest times to the present. The ancient Assyrians captured the Siege of Lachish in a large bas relief wall carving. Picasso modeled perhaps his most famous work, *Guernica*, after a battle in the Spanish Civil War. Authors like Tolstoy and Hemingway wrote extensively on the subject. And filmmaker Stanley Kubrick treated the subject in numerous films such as *Dr. Strangelove*, *Full Metal Jacket*, and, most notably for the subject of the anniversary of World War I, *Paths of Glory*, whose title derives from this haunting verse from Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard":

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of pow'r,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike th' inevitable hour.

The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

May the world never again be engulfed in war. *Dona nobis pacem!*

Voices de la Luna
Is Pleased to Announce
The HEB Annual Youth Poetry Contest
for students 18 or younger



For Submission Guidelines Please Visit
HEB Youth Poetry Contest
at www.voicesdelaluna.com/submissions/

Deadline: November 1, 2014

Submission Guidelines

To submit material for publication in *Voices de la Luna*, go to voicesdelaluna.submittable.com.

***Voices de la Luna* Monthly Literary Evening**

Poetry and Arts Presentation
Every Fourth Wednesday, January through June
and September through December
Poetry Workshop at 6:00
Featured Poet at 7:00
Poetry, Music, & Open Mic at 7:30
Barnes & Noble at the Shops at La Cantera
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Voices de la Luna is a quarterly publication dedicated to the artistic expression of a wide range of perspectives and topics. In the service of that goal, we welcome diverse, well-written submissions from every quarter.