

Answers

David Sparenberg

You are the enemy
and we have hated, killed and died;
our bodies tense in the pose of aggression
our minds frozen in incessant night.
We have engaged in slaughter, across flaming deserts,
in frozen wastelands, mutual victims, in burned-out cities.

Today, I throw away my weapons.
The systems are being dismantled, the machinery is cast aside.
Are you hungry? Here is food.
Do you need shelter? Let us build together.
How are your parents? I can give medicine.
What of your children, do they need education?
We can tell them stories, paint rainbows of direction, hand them a future.

Let us share an hour: speak to each other
Give the gift of silence, listen to heartbeats, raindrops and stars.
(After so much terror, silence is refreshing.)

Most important of all, here is my hand.
More important than that, this is my face, my eyes to look into.
I want you to trust them.



Drawing :Nicola Beechsquirrel