

There Must Be a Better Way

Graham Nicholson, with thanks to the Israeli entry in Eurovision Song Competition 2009,
"There must be another way".

The ages portray
Spectacles of war, conquest and death
Neanderthal and homo sapiens
Clashing on an earlier day
Canaanites, Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians,
Persians, Greeks, Romans, Jews,
Entering into the fray.

Then the Arabs rose
Against the Frankish Crusaders,
Marmelukes, Ottoman Turks, Napoleon's French
When it was hot and when it froze
British, Zionists, Palestinians, Syrians
Lebanese, Hizbollah, PLO, Hamas
Adopting an aggressive pose.

A strip of land
Thrust between the sea and desert
Crossed and re-crossed by armies
Leaving only blood-soaked sand
For thousands of years a home and passage
To be fought over in the delusion
Of an idea grand.

Question it now
There must be, must be a better way
There must be more to live and die for
Than to violence bow
In one short lifetime on one small planet
One global village, one human race
A new covenant avow.