

Peace Poems & Quotes

Say No to Peace

Say 'no' to peace
If what they mean by peace
Is the quiet misery of hunger
The frozen stillness of fear
The silence of broken spirits
The unborn hopes of the oppressed

Tell them that peace
Is the shouting of children at play
The babble of tongues set free
The thunder of dancing feet
And a father's voice singing

Say 'no' to peace
If what they mean by peace
Is a rampart of gleaming missiles
The arming of distant wars
Money at ease in its castle
And grateful poor at the gate

Tell them that peace
Is the hauling down of flags
The forging of guns into ploughs,
The giving of the fields to the landless,
And hunger a fading dream.

Brian Wren
in Bread of Tomorrow, Christian Aid p 130.

A Peace

There is a peace
I know about.
It is in the animals of the forest.
It is in the birds that fill the air.
It is gently blowing in the wind.
It is whispered about among the flowers in the garden.
It dwells with the fish of the ocean.
It is with the animals of deserts and prairies.
But it is not with the people of the world.
Why?

unknown

All In The Mind

Peace is a bird,
White-feathered
As a winter tree
Frothed in snow.

It is silence
Leaking from cupped
Hands like ice-cold
Mountain water.

Peace is a petal
On the summer wind,
Fine spun as a
Dragonfly's wing.

It is a promise
Straddling the skies
Like a rainbow
After a storm.

Maira Andrew.

The News

I don't like the news that explodes
Leaves refugees crying, homeless.
That orders tanks into cities
Blasting down schools and houses.
News that blows up hospitals
News that kills and fills deep graves.
I don't like news that screams abuse
Kicks the legs from under wingers.
Taps their ankles, argues back
News that won't learn how to lose.

I like news that's just been born.
News that puts food in stomachs.
News that rescues, that cures.
That celebrates it's hundredth birthday.
News that will make today,
Happier than the day before.

David Harmer

'Peace is not merely the absence of conflict. It involves the establishment of justice and mutual respect among people. It involves total well-being and right relationships within the community.'

Rebuilding Sierra Leone' The Council of Churches in Sierra Leone

Give Peace A Chance

I noticed your sign saying 'Make peace not war'
So I thought I'd pop in to find out some more.
Before it all starts and I sign on the line.
I've got some questions if you've got the time

If, in an exam John stole my pen
Would it be OK to fight with him then?
And later that day, whilst on my way home
If John and his brother Phil, stole my phone
In that situation it only seems fair
That I should be able to sort out the pair!

But, if the next day whilst out with my mum
John kicked a football that hit my mum's bum!
If he didn't say sorry, but just laughed with glee
Then kicked it again so that it hit me!
If that were to happen would it be alright
To take no more nonsense, and put up a fight?

So lets get this straight, are you trying to say
No more excuses starting today?
That peace isn't just something adults don't do,
But something that even I need to think of too.
So, even if John were to kick me in the pants
I'd need to remember to give peace a chance!

Jo West, Liz Lamb

Mela

Let us eat together.
Let us take our ease.
Let us throw our weapons down.

Here, is peace.

Jean Kenward

“Living out a witness to peace has to do with everyday choices about the work we do, the relationships we build, what part we take in politics, what we buy, how we raise our children. It is a matter of fostering relationships and structures - from personal to international - which are strong and healthy enough to contain conflict when it arises and allow its creative resolution.”

Mary Lou Leavitt , Quaker Peace and Service