

Missing Persons

I know where the bodies are buried
in my house and can whistle past
indefinitely before I must dig and sift.

Almost at once, the remains of a girl scout
at nine, her green uniform folded more neatly
than it was worn, the sturdy body quite gone.

A turquoise bib recalls the chubby boy
with oatmeal around the mouth that opened,
swallowed, despite the sound asleep eyes.

Lost her baby, I heard then, in between
those I kept; only to find the more
they survive, the more I lose them again.

What do I do now with this doll dress
my lastborn wore for ten miniature months?

How do I greet these ghosts who haunt
the remains of the children? The young
mother who dressed each child in red

for this photo? The weary one who rocks
until dawn? The yellowed newspaper girl
smiling like a bride? Under the most dust

I find the diary kept from twelve to sixteen,
about boys, often as not, keening for them
as if nothing mattered but scouting out love.

There is nothing here I can keep or discard.
I'm putting it all back, sprinkling dust
over the top and closing the closet door

as if, in the dark, the ghosts will rest.

A CALL FOR PAPERS:
LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN WAR AND PEACE

Given the mounting worldwide concern about the rising intensity of the nuclear arms race and the increasing number of Latter-day Saints who live in countries beset by war or civil war, it seems appropriate that we again examine our history and theology in search of principles to guide our response to violence and our stance on militarism. In this issue of *DIALOGUE* we open the discussion with an essay by Edwin Brown Firmage. A professor of international law at the University of Utah, Firmage traces the evolution of Judeo-Christian teachings regarding force and war, including the admonitions of Mormon leaders from Joseph Smith and Brigham Young to J. Reuben Clark and Spencer W. Kimball. We believe his interpretations are provocative; we hope they will stimulate other thoughtful Latter-day Saints to write about the dilemmas posed by violence and war, and their struggles to reconcile Christian doctrine and national defense.

We plan a special *DIALOGUE* issue on Latter-day Saints in war and peace in 1984. We will welcome historical and theological manuscripts and personal essays on this general topic. These articles should be submitted no later than 31 December 1983, and will be eligible for consideration for the *DIALOGUE*-Silver Foundation awards for outstanding articles. This competition is announced elsewhere in this issue.

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