

Horror vs. Heroism

(at Ground Zero)

The breadth of horror
did not engulf
the depth of heroism.

Who was not appalled
by the intensity
of the horror?

Who was not heartened
by the spontaneity
of the heroism?

Who did not flee
from the devastation
of the horror?

Who did not embrace
the manifestation
of the heroism?

Horror is an effect
of terrorism;
heroism is an expression
of altruism.

Malice and forethought
planned the horror;
goodness and compassion
elicited the heroism.

Desperation and opposition
instilled the desire for
horror;
hope and solidarity
distilled into
heroism.

The perpetrators of horror
bear the stigma
of ignominy;
the practitioners of heroism
sow the seeds
of harmony.

The spirit is deadened
by horror,
but quickened
by heroism.

Our prayer is for
the elimination
of horror
and the propagation
of heroism

If you want
to improve the world,
therefore,
avoid policies and lifestyles
that supply fodder
for horror
and foster a spirituality
that expands
your heroism.

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