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## Lesson Un-Learned

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## LESSON UN-LEARNED

*Marvin Sosna*

The War is over. Done.  
Did we win? We did not  
lose, we're told.

The screams ended, cries of horror  
only echoes now across the land  
drenched in human fluids, a flood  
of blood and mucous and urine exuded  
in the spasm of life's last gasp.

All silence, everywhere. Hushed.  
Are we smiling? There should  
be joy, yes.

They are home now, legs and arms  
severed, eyes blinded, brains twisted,  
memories overflowing with roadside  
bombs, sniper's guns, children turned  
into weapons of mass destruction.

Behind, a wasteland. Does  
anything grow there?  
Only hate.

Around lie the banners, the slogans,  
three-word wisdom that captures the minute,  
leaves the mind numb, the intellect in coma,  
the heart in thrall for the leaders who carry  
us to the next crusade. 