

Holding All There Is

By Judith Heilizer
November 2018

They were all children
like yours and mine

they were anticipated with delight or dreaded for their oppressive neediness
or at worst thought irrelevant
they were seen and known and loved and wanted
or not

these children created their world in their own images
through the eyes of their parents and their teachers
who taught them who they were

and what was true and right and untrue and wrong
and everything in between

and because they were children
they needed to trust those truths and make them theirs
so they could be safe
and would not be
alone
and without love

now these particular children of which I speak
they learned about the pleasure of anger and power
and what it can accomplish
from the grownups whose love they needed
who had been those children also
once upon a time

so now there is sadness because part of them hurts all the time
they have learned
that what you feel is not what you are told to feel
and you must listen to what you are told
so you can feel loved
and there is no way out

so this anger makes them feel powerful
and also loved
and it covers their hurt

so they learned about dismissing the Other
if they are less then you are more
and so it makes you strong
and makes everything you do right
even if it does not feel that way
and the hurt goes deep inside where it can hardly be found
this is the empty chasm
in which the Other becomes a thing
to be erased, rendered non existent

and Pittsburg and Auschwitz happen
and things in tepees and churches and gay bars
and sometimes at traffic stops

what they do not know
because they have not been told
is that love and joy and delight and surprise
become the silent victims of this bleak power
in which the Other ceases to exist

so these children loose the love of living
they too become victims
because
that is how it works

but understanding is not excusing or forgiving

so let us hold dear
the things we tell our children
the things we show our children
the things we make our children believe
the things we charge our children to feel and hence to do
the things we are

for our children are our power
and our executors

and if we do not do these things
our children will become
our executioners

for they will not have souls
to keep them whole

let us give our children
love and trust and happy anticipation
and the love and the joy and delight of surprise
in who they can be and can become
in the perfect circle of every one and every thing
in this beautiful world

blessings