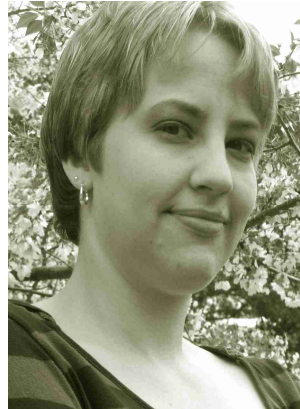


Dear God,

I look around and see hatred in people's eyes
I cannot begin to imagine how my friend's parents felt when
they learned that their babies died.
I remember a time of peace and glory.
Since the war has begun,
these memories of happiness seem like a fairy tale story.
I go to bed terrified at night wondering why
So many people could be so full of hate;
No one seems to want to call to you God
they never want to breathe your name until it is too late.
Just the other day I watched one of my best friends die.
I held him in my arms and watched him slowly slip away,
I hate that we had to go to war; I hated watching my friends' lives
slip away.
I do not know how much longer I can take this God,
I do not know if I can handle the pain,
I need you to protect me, I need your love to make me feel sane.
I pray every night that this war will be over, I pray that
I will one day be able to go home,
I wish that I never had to come over here,
At least I know that I have your love so that I will never be alone.
Please God, I beg you, watch over us always,
I know that this battle is in your hands
and that it will be over when you chose it to be that way.
I know that you have shed your share of tears, just as I have too,
I hope that this war will be over soon
because I am to the point that I do not know what to do.
I will only ask you one more thing before I say good night,
Please let my family know that I am ok and that I am strong be-
cause I am fighting to make everything for them right.

In your precious name I pray,
Your loving faithful servant

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This poem is dedicated to the men and women who are fighting for all of us. Please keep them in your prayers. Pray that they will return soon. God bless our soldiers and our country.



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