



PETER FRITZ WALTER

POEMS

East and West. In Memoriam. Long Ago. You Must Be Mad.

A production by Peter Fritz Walter.

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EAST AND WEST

In the East people mix in the street. They all have their business, but they tolerate each other. They mind their own affairs.

In the West people do not mix in the street. They mind their business, but do not tolerate one another. They most mind other people's affairs.



A man goes with a child. They avoid touching. They met in the street. Passing people give them a glance of hatred.

Their faces are full of suspicion, sorrow and anger. They are dead but ignore their death. They are dead since centuries, since millennia without knowing it. Only the man and the child are alive. Because they *love*—in a society of haters.

In the East, children play. A man sits down next to them. They smile to him. They ask him where he is from, they tease him.

In the West, children play. A man sits down next to them. They avoid by all means looking at him. They stop talking. Suddenly, they leave.



IN MEMORIAM

I loved a girl of three.
She was my neighbor's child.
I loved her as myself.

When I left her, she cried,
When I came back, she laughed.
She was truly alive.

I loved a girl of five.
Promising, full of talent,
Wanting to become a model.

I loved a girl of seven
That slowly died in a school
Where she forgot what love was.

I loved a girl of nine
That dropped out of school,
Stupid, lazy, rude and dead.



LONG AGO

Long ago I lived without love.
My life was well-ordered, safe and clean.
I had a job, friends and opinions.
All seemed in order.

Then I fell on my nose,
Lost job, marriage and order.
I had enemies and no more opinions.
All seemed in disorder.

Then I recovered
And built a new life from scratch.
I saw I had no friends and no enemies.
All seemed in love.

Then I got up
And went out of my house
Because I wanted friends and enemies.
And then I saw that all was filled with life.



YOU MUST BE MAD

Having the courage to love
In a world without love,
You must be mad.

Loving still
When all are against you,
You must be mad.

Believing in wonders
When all think they can measure life,
You must be mad.

Fighting for your love
When all tell you to abandon the cause,
You must be mad.

Persisting even after failure,
When all your friends have abandoned you,
You must be mad.

Experiencing the happiness
That results from your faith and your efforts,
You must be mad.