DOOMED WARRIOR

The rumblings persist they won't cease
turmoil reigns supreme within
quietude a long-lost friend
compelled to contend
with myriad siren songs
I spiral

Whipped to and fro by inner passion
like driftwood on a stormy sea of feeling
my anchor's line is stretched yet holding fast
tho turbulent current threatens to dash me
helplessly against the rocks of human ego...
the tide rolls on

So futile seems this struggle against emotions' tide
my spirit yields to the motion
tho often crushed by breaking waves...
bobbing, weaving, twisting, turning
up life's murky stream-
the inevitable struggle of salmon
against cascading falls

This battle- tho hopelessly lost-
wages to last weary gasp
this fight may well be folly
yet conviction is my sword
and inner truth my shield

When I lie down no longer able
no longer willing to bear arms
my being scabbed and sore
with wounds no longer bleeding
my drained blood
will have been
of deepest red

T. A. NILES

T. A. Niles was a seed planted in the Caribbean soil of Trinidad & Tobago on the cusp of the transformational 60s. He was watered and fertilized in the gardens of Brooklyn, New York and Hartford, Connecticut throughout most of the bell-bottomed era of the 70s. He was forged in trials by fire in the US Marine Corps in the late 70s thru early 80s. Budded and bloomed in academia in the 80s and 90s, before his withering began at the turn of the 21st century. Yet, before he falls from the stem, and is ground once more into dust, he hopes to feed a mind or two with morsels of his meanderings. He comes to us from Mimbres, New Mexico- the latest stop on a life journey dotted with myriad landscapes. For his recent foray into this community of poetry, T. A. credits the audiobook production of Hiram Larew's most recent collection, Mud Ajar. He hopes that his expressions will be balanced between, on the one side, his history, imagination, soaring flights and crash landings, his ambivalent relationship with language- and just about everything else- and, on the other side, your benevolent eyes, welcome-mat of ears, cosmic-sized mind, and authentic responses.

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