

**Children of the Book
for Jeffrey J Butz**

Children of the book, why do you hate each other so?
Brothers born from Abraham's seed, brothers torn
By different creed. Look not at the mote in your
Brother's eye, when yours is closed in hate.

Children of the book, why do you hate each other so?
Can't you see that it is man who gives Him different names;
For no matter what you call Him, His spirit still remains?
Why all the bloodshed, all the hatred, offered in His name?

Children of the book, why do you hate each other so?
Were you not commanded, in words and law combined,
To honor mother, father, neighbor, and not give in
To hate? Is not the blood of Abraham flowing in your veins?

Children of the book, why do you hate each other so?
Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, do they not belong to you?
They came to honor Him above, to do His holy work,
And we have made a mockery of their loving words.

Children of the book, why do you hate each other so?
I long to visit Mecca, and gaze upon the stone; I long to see
The Temple built, and Wailing Wall complete; I long to see
The Church of James; three together in one place.

Children of the book, why do you hate each other so?
Forge a different trinity – a trinity of faith, where men
Can know each other, and finally live in peace. Children
Of the book, join together, once for all.

Proclaim a time of happiness, proclaim a time of peace;
Proclaim a time when all three faiths can live in harmony.
Proclaim a time of bounty; proclaim a time of truth;
Proclaim the living words of God, in which we all believe.