

# Memorial Day: In the Blood

By [Edward Curtin](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [History](#)

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Born in a normal time,  
The periodic slaughter of millions  
By the civilized nations of the earth  
I grew to adulthood half-crazed  
With fear and numbed wonder.  
I always wished to believe otherwise,  
That people were good at heart,  
Wanted to live in mutual peace  
And tend the green earth as if  
It were a garden  
As if pity vivified all living things.  
Somehow the blood that was in me  
Said otherwise,  
Spoke truth to the power  
Of my wish,  
While everywhere around me lay the lie.  
But my blood, this blood that became me  
While millions were being butchered  
And Bing Crosby crooned I'm dreaming  
Of a white Christmas,  
This red blood said otherwise.  
Do not accept the way they say  
"Good Morning"  
And the way they nod as they pass,  
As though they didn't want to kill  
Each other.  
Do not believe their eyes  
And the way they pray to the skies

To save them.  
Do not believe their beliefs,  
All lies woven to deceive.  
For at heart they truly hate  
The green earth.  
Do not believe the way they say  
“Good Evening”  
For they wish the darkest night  
To descend upon us,  
The nothingness of their knowledge,  
The lies they devour  
To swallow all.  
That is what will release them,  
That is all.

Thus my blood spoke to me,  
A child of a sanguine century,  
Born in a normal time,  
The periodic slaughter of millions  
By the civilized nations of the earth.

And despite all appearances,  
I have never believed them.  
Never. Not at all.

\*

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*This article was originally published on the author's website, [Behind the Curtain](#).*

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*Featured image: Andersonville National Cemetery, NPS*

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