



What will there be?

A nonkilling plea dedicated to President Barack Obama

by Francisco Gomes de Matos, an applied peace linguist, President of the Board, Brazil America Association, Recife, Brazil

I
Of your faith in hope there is Nobel recognition
the formidable challenges facing you now magnify
wisely added to your brave presidential mission:
A deeper universal value you are asked to dignify

II
A world free from the threat of nuclear war: will there be ?
A world free from any acts of terrorism: will there be ?
A world free from violations of Human Rights: will there be ?
A world of Societies that are killing-free: will there be ?

III
For diplomatic relations what principles do you (fore) see ?
For economic fairness what policies do you (fore) see ?
For environmental justice what procedures do you (fore) see ?
For universal harmony what practices do you (fore) see ?

IV
To a nonviolent world may you creatively contribute
in which myriad, malevolent ways of killing will cease
To a Nonkilling world may you audaciously contribute
and help Humankind learn to share the Earth in Peace

Wonderful !

Steven Pinker,
Harvard University

Francisco

Send it to the White House!

Milt

Milton Schwebel, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University,
Past Editor of Peace and Conflict. Journal of Peace Psychology.

Dear Francisco,

This form of stanza, modified most appropriately in the third, works very well. The thematics, are, of course, first class. The emphasis on "fore-" is really good. It's in line with Barack's second memoir, the Audacity of Hope. It is, of course, the future that needs so much tending. Strong, with just the right amount of subtlety. All best.

George

Dr. George Simson, Professor Emeritus, English Literature, University of Hawaii.
Author of Foreword to Prof. Gomes de Matos' book Nurturing Nonkilling: a Poetic Plantation.

Dear Francisco,

Thank you for your poem-plea to **PRESIDENT OBAMA.**
I believe he will sincerely attempt to foster the goals you mention but to achieve them he will need the help of many dedicated, active supporters.

Best wishes,
Mort

Morton Deutsch
E.L.Thorndike Professor Emeritus and Director Emeritus,
International Center of Cooperation and Conflict Resolution,
Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dear Francisco,

All I can do is echo Sandy's and Shelley's sentiments. I am astounded of course at the negative responses to this award to our President, that he should not have gotten it through some fault of his own, when he has nothing to do with the award decision. I think our Norwegian friends have sent a powerful message about peace to the world - as you so eloquently write in your poetry.

My best,

Mark

Mark Algren (University of Kentucky) is the current President of TESOL,
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Francisco

Thanks for sharing your tribute to Obama. It is a fine, sensitive piece on peace. There is nothing I can do that will either add or detract from your effort. I trust you have sent a copy to the White House.

Best,

Bob

Robert B. Kaplan is Professor Emeritus, University of Southern California.
He was President of TESOL, NAFSA and AAAL. One of the world's best-known applied linguists.

Amen.

John

John Micklos, Jr.
Editor in Chief, Reading Today
International Reading Association