

The Silence Of Peace

Anger, confusion, and perceived conflict,
can lead to lock-down-slam-shut
silence hard as a stone dam, or a shield of cold energy,
freezing, separating, keeping out, keeping in,
the wounded, the healed, the right, the wrong,
all clearly marked 'them' and 'us'
and divided 'in' and 'out' of **our** side.

In times of violence we are called to a silence
open, porous, and round like tilled earth;
a silence that creates space
spongy, worm, and ready
to receive and nourish life;
a silence that creates time for good neighboring,
absorbing the shock of unabsorbed pain,
and drawing near to the wounded;
time for holding close the discarded,
anointing each other with forgiveness,
and watching together for the dawn.

Silence provides conscious time
for hearing whispers of peace in the dark,
and real space for planting peace in our hearts.
Listen for peace. Labor for peace. Pray for peace.
It needs only a bit of space and time
to take root, to grow, and to spring up among us.

Ann Hayden, MM