Only Through Your Love Can We Survive
To the children who lost their parents in the tragic attacks on the USA on 9/11/2001

A poem by Ibrahim Abu-Rabi‘

I fix my gaze on your eyes,
Trying to fathom the depth of your anguish
And the extent of your pain.

When your parents kissed you goodbye that morning
It never crossed your minds that you would never meet again;

Buried under the rubble, the bodies of your loved ones
Have dotted our emotional landscape
And have made you closer to our hearts than ever.

Your pain has thrown us into the unspoken pain of the millions
Of suffering children around the world, JUST like you.

We feel as though our raison d’etre, foundation, and identity,
Has been shattered beyond belief
However, your beautiful and sad eyes give us
A glimmer of light, hope, and anchor;
We tread the path of agony, this time, not alone,
But in unison with you;
We surrender ourselves completely to you,
You have become our guide, just like the SAGE in
Dante’s Divine Comedy;
You have become our teachers, giving us lessons in love,
Humility, and compassion;
We see on the horizons the beginnings of a new dawn;
We see your compassionate smile
Taking us by the hand in the new darkness
Surrounding the world.
Your proximity to us has made life meaningful again.

Yes, we will overcome this tragedy together;
Yes, we will overcome it together with the suffering children of the world
When? We do not know!
The world seems to be poised on creating
More suffering for children like you
But we are sure that one day we will overcome;
We are sure that one day your smile will melt down all the anger
And hatred of this world.

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