

ABSTRACT

BAPTIZED IN DIRT

This collection of Poetry is an autobiographical snapshot of my road to, and on, Pacifism. Of mixed Irish and Mexican heritage, I grew up in tough neighborhoods in Los Angeles and in Fresno, California. When I was a teenager, I wanted a way out of the violence that surrounded me. Just after my sixteenth birthday, I decided to turn towards a life of peace. Over fifteen years later, I've been mostly successful.

The first section is about my youth, before I made my vow of peace. These poems deal with gangs, family, being stuck between two cultures, and the barrios that shaped me. Part two is after my vow of peace, in my late teens and twenties. These poems are more about loss, about making sense of the difficult things, like love, sex, and work. The final section is my life as an adult, with many poems focused on my sick father, a Vietnam veteran, and my younger brother who is a Marine serving in the Iraq war.

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