Hatred in the Air, Poem

Charles Kay Smith
Hatred in the Air

I write with humility,  
for my country’s race to wars  
after 9/11 committed  
mass murder that wrought vengeance.

Killing humans is always wrong  
no matter whether it’s terror  
or bombs and drones, it’s murder,  
indiscriminate slaughter.

We are reaping what we sowed,  
yet some see only an outrage  
to the West in the present panic,  
rather than reciprocal tragedy.

Another panic and hasty war  
will only extend the chain of hatred.  
Some leaders may sense a chance,  
in peoples’ fears, to profit  
by beating the drums of war.  
Woe to our children if they succeed  
and to the children of our children.  
Murder will echo till one generation  
Has wisdom enough  
to end the chain of hatred.  
Oh, let it be ours  
not to react in fear and panic  
but with courage acknowledge  
that Muslims are our brother and sister  
humans that can join us in healing
the world we share as legacy for our children.