

the Confused Heart of Passion

BY CARLA M HEATHCOTE

STRUCTURE: This book form combines a variety of bookmaking techniques. The flag structure relays two written messages: one revealed via a standard codex reading [*page to page*]; one apparent only when the front and back covers are stretched apart and the flags allowed to interleave. Akin to a dos-à-dos format [*positioned back-to-back, two books in one*], the flag book transitions into a sculptural form when the back cover is oriented as the front, and the accordion binding at the right fore edge is splayed open like a fan.

CONTENT: This book is a contemplative prayer book that addresses the insanity of killing simply because a person or culture has alternative beliefs, thoughts, principles, values, and opinions: Sacredly held mentalities which influence their physical behaviors and practices, but never harm or negatively impact another's existence or well-being.

READING 1: The message within the codex format bemoans the pain and suffering that has been wrought to advance an agenda of death attributed to the command of a Divine Creator, such as those carried out by fringe sects. It cautions that killing and destroying for Glory does not guarantee Heaven as a reward.

**MAY WE ALWAYS REMEMBER BEAUTIFUL OUTCOMES
DO NOT JUSTIFY HORRIFIC MEANS**

READING 2: Via the interleaving of flags and Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem, *Jabberwocky* [pub. 1871], the reader is challenged to consider what's more harmful: an awesome beast—*albeit frighteningly designed*—with sharp teeth and claws, or an armed boy sent on a crusade to exterminate said natural being. The reader is asked to alternate perspective by metaphorically reflecting upon:

ORGANIZED RELIGION: THE BEAST OR THE BOY?

TRANSFORMATION: When the book is inverted at the spine an abstract, sculptural lotus form is created within the negative space [*viewed best at eye level*]; the closure ribbon falls vertically to become the stem. This acts as a gesture prayer that hopes all religions grow to be as lovely, pure, giving, honest, and accepting as a flower. Like a lotus whose stem grows its way through both mud and murky water, religions can't detach from their dirty [*and bloody*] origins. And though religions align themselves as representatives of the Divine, they are not the divine essence that generates the miracle that becomes Lotus. Religion is human-made: crafted, practiced, and perpetuated by people. This book asks those with religion and passionately held belief structures to strive for lotus perfection in their practice.

COLOPHON: Typefaces employed are Bodoni, Aachen, and Duc de Berry. Papers used include: Outside Cover = Gold Quilt, handmade from Nepal; Endsheets = Marbleized, handmade from Thailand; Spine = Masa; Flags = 80# cover, Info sheet = 100% Cotton Rag. Printed on a Canon Digital Image Press at DA Printing, Dubuque, IA.