

# “Afghanistan”

by Daniel W. Ross

One gains no traction in a game with no rules,  
Forsaken efforts hexing a forlorn few;  
The other side of the mountain proved us fools.

Generations drowned by politics' drool,  
Fade to obscurity's ephemeral hue;  
One gains no traction in a game with no rules,

Yet, warriors possessed victorious tools  
Action unraveled by strategy *they* drew;  
The other side of the mountain proved us fools.

Lions left to fundamentalist cesspools,  
The ignominy remains ours 'cause we knew,  
One gains no traction in a game with no rules.

And this history will be lost to our schools,  
While years of trauma and suffering accrue;  
The other side of the mountain proved us fools.

Thus, return to the ouroboros of ghouls,  
Our never-ending mistakes once again new:  
One gains no traction in a game with no rules,  
The other side of the mountain proved us fools.

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**Dr. Daniel W. Ross** grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, where he developed a love for poetry and creative writing at Gilman School and Goucher College. He finds inspiration from his travels across the globe and has visited or worked in many ambiguous, high-stress, and complex environments in over 40 countries. Dr. Ross enjoys time with his wife and two daughters; he also enjoys mountaineering, rock climbing, hiking, and everything about the outdoors.