

Foreword

Here's a peek behind the curtains of a special time in our nations' cultural history, as well as, in my furious life. I would describe these poems as "*Fragments of a Spiritual*," as Poet / Artist LeRoy Clarke so aptly titled his art and poetry (see **GV16 IMPRESSIONS Magazine of the Arts** – www.graffitiverite.com).

These previously unpublished poems capture the pathetic, unbridled passion and disturbingly chaotic perspective of a confused Poet / Warrior under the stimulating influence and vernacular of the Black Arts Movement during the late 1960's and early '70's. Harlem, NYC was the creative epicenter for the movement.

As an artist cum "*conscientious objector*" cum Vietnam War Vet, life conspired to make my shifting perspectives and cultural indoctrination more than a little complicated. While many artists of that time-period found their creative voice, my *raison d'être* and psyche compelled me to vent and purge.

Prior to being drafted in the U.S. Army, I had two (2) thriving owner/operated jewelry companies **Rebellion and Company** and **Bamboo Creations**. We manufactured and distributed hand-made Love "Peace" Necklaces, (remember those) to national chain stores such as Macy's,