

## IN A STREET IN OSLO

*March 2015*

One day in a street in Oslo,  
a strong ring of loving arms encircled a synagogue,  
a thousand Muslims showed the world  
that in the face of the rage that comes at sunrise  
and the terror that haunts the darkness of night  
they were as one with all the children of Abraham,  
Muslims, Christians and Jews,  
and stood united with all people of good will  
that the powers of barbarism and death  
might be overcome  
by the gentle healing of universal love.  
On another day, in another street in Oslo,  
another ring of arms is made,  
a Jewish ring of protection around a mosque,  
and the dance of Love begins again.

How many circles of support and love are needed  
to send a simple message to the world?  
After journalists have left with their cameras packed away,  
how many thousands of good people must strive  
to make clear their continuing compassion?  
But when a sudden dancing wind moves on  
it leaves behind a fingerprint on the quiet landscape,  
the flood recedes but soft pools still lie  
in grass once parched and bitter.  
So it is in the new joy and prayers of erstwhile enemies  
that new friends and new resolutions are made,  
until we come at last to recognise the faith  
which is the true foundation of our hope  
and the bringer of everlasting love.  
So may it be  
Amen

*- Naomi Linnell*