

How Can We Be One?

By Hap Hansen

How can we be one?
When some children go hungry,
crying in the night.

An Astronaut said,
"Break the surly bonds of earth
and fly to the moon."

And Apollo flew
to the moon's dusty surface
and came back again.

Just what did we prove?
Our invincibility
to foreign nations?

Or did we proceed,
like the mountaineers of old,
because it was there?

Should we have taken
the billion dollars in cost
to assist mankind?

Should we fly to Mars
while the poor cry out in pain,
helpless and in need?

How can we ignore
the haunting look of a child
with eyes full of fear?

Or the child's mother
frightened and afraid to ask
for food and shelter.

And we look away
from the embarrassed father
"Get a job!" we say.

For those in dire need
ignorance is not blissful
help is what they need.

We can aid the poor.
Our bounty can do much more.
We can reach the stars!