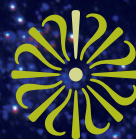




# MORAL INJURY, WAR & RECLAIMING THE SOUL

Discussion Series  
The Military Graphic Novel



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
Humanities



## **The Warrior's Path: Moral Injury, War and Reclaiming the Soul**

### **Discussion Guide for Vet-to-Vet Group with *The White Donkey***

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The discussion group series is purposefully designed to provide you the time and support to reflect on and discuss experiences with war and moral injury (of the characters or yourself should you choose to). You will have the opportunity to develop your own stories, through writing scenes or poems.

**Location:** Military and Veterans Resource Center (MAVRC) UW-Milwaukee Student Union, Room WG-99

**Schedule:** 5 discussions, 1x per week, 90 min, 30 min optional story creation  
Thursdays 6-7:30pm Jan. 24-Feb. 21, 2019

**Day 1:** *The White Donkey* by Maximilian Uriarte, pp. 1-92, and "A Break from the Bush" by Yusef Komunyakaa Why does one join the military? What are some main differences between civilian and military life?

**Theme:** **Collectivism: becoming a member of the military**

**Day 2:** *The White Donkey* by Maximilian Uriarte, pp. 93-147, and "A Taste of Afghanistan" by Rob Densmore and "For the Missing in Action" by John Balaban How do members of the military deal with the moral ambiguity of killing in wartime? How do they deal with not knowing who the enemy really is?

**Theme:** **Uncertainty and Ambiguity of War: the foreshadowing of moral injury**

**Day 3:** *The White Donkey* by Maximilian Uriarte, pp. 147-166 and "Death of the Ball Turret Gunner" by Randall Jarrell How do you assess the level of danger in wartime situations? What are causes of arguments with comrades? What happens to your mind after a comrade dies in combat?

**Theme:** **Mental Agility and the Reality of War: the onset of moral injury**

**Day 4:** *The White Donkey* by Maximilian Uriarte, pp. 166-182 and "At Lowe's Home Improvement Center" by Brian Turner What is survivor's guilt? Why does death emphasize the need to know what one believes in or wants?

**Theme:** **Survivor's Guilt: the moral injury of a comrade's death**

**Day 5:** *The White Donkey* by Maximilian Uriarte, pp. 183-167) and "Therapy" by D.A.Gray, "i should be sleep lord" by Toni Topps, "PTSD" by Chantelle Bateman Can moral injury be reconciled? Should it be?

**Theme:** **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Moral Injury: how to reconcile?**