Win Ratz, 7513 Frankie Dr. Cheyenne WY 82009

[winratz@gmail.com](mailto:winratz@gmail.com) 307 256-3438

Could it be this way?

From a distance the line looks like a snake

winding slowly, silently through the barren landscape

towards a gate in a high fence.

Babes in arms, crippled old men, heavily pregnant women, - all exhausted,

wanting only

a safe place to call home,

having escaped the terror and chaos in

the land of their birth,

hoping for compassion,

a little understanding,

dreading seeing the words stamped in black ink,-

**“Settlement Denied”.**

An elderly woman leans heavily on her husband

as they trudge wearily towards the armed guards

and officials checking identity papers-

The anonymous official looks up,

making eye contact,

a slight smile on his tired face

and speaks just one word:-

“Welcome”.