

In *The Fate Of Man*, William Panzarella tackles his most paramount and controversial subject yet: the destiny of mankind. Taking place nearly twenty years after World War III, *The Fate Of Man* is a story about Shepard, a sixteen-year old who has lived with other survivors in the mountains of Montana. But faced with a scarcity of food, disease and oncoming winter, the elders of the camp determine it is time for Shepard to venture out into the vast wasteland that used to be the United States and search for the long-rumored “New Capital”; a place where a new government and society is supposedly being erected.

One of the most interesting facets of this book is that it is written in the first person. Though fiction, it is an autobiographical odyssey of one young man’s journey not only to save his people, but to answer the questions that are as old as humanity itself: What drives man to war? Is he capable of change? Will he learn from his mistakes? Will the human race survive? Is there really a God?

Is *The Fate Of Man* a grim foreshadowing of what is to become of us? One would certainly hope not. But one could not help to wonder if such a destiny is already etched in stone. Can we change before it’s too late? Time is running out.