

Delphic Oracle at Guernica



*Now your statues are standing and pouring sweat.
They shiver with dread.
The black blood drips from the highest rooftops.
They have seen the necessity of evil.
Get out, get out of my sanctum
and drown your spirits in woe!
The Luftwaffe synchronizes instruments.
A black cloud shrouds the sun.
The walls of the temple are sundered.
The Romans crucify their Jews.
The Jews crucify their prophets.
The prophets prescribe bombings.
Await not in quiet
the coming of the horses,
the marching feet,
the armed host upon the land.
Slip away!
Turn your back.
The Allies bomb Hiroshima.
Magatamas of molten steel tears
shower over Guernica.
Swastikas mutilate the Madonna.
Militiamen boil our blood
writhing our newspaper flesh,
You will meet in battle anyway.
O...Salamis,
you will be the death of many a woman's son
between the seedtime
and the harvest of the grain.
transforming windmills into giants
and innocent children
into witnesses of oblivion.*

* All text in Times New Roman font are words of the Oracle at Delphi in the year 480 BCE when Athenian leaders consulted it after learning that King Xerxes of Persia was about to invade Greece. All text in Arial font is from fragments of my poem *Guernica* (March 30th 1978) translated into English on February 9th 2024. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_oracular_statements_from_Delphi