

POEM OF THE WEEK

BIG BANGS & OTHER NASTIES

The Atomic Bomb dropped on
Nagasaki and Hiroshima
Was the biggest Bang
of World War 2 in 1945

Demolished; atomic radiation was released
Into the world, into the collective conscious
Onto an unsuspecting population
The devil was free
The devil laughed
The devil jeered
They had discovered a new toy
“This will bring us joy”, they said

The Military and politicians
watched in horror.
If that is winning
What have we won?
A war of the outright destruction

What have we learned?

Some weapons are too great a responsibility
For one government to have
And too great a peril
for many governments to have

Between the discovery
(a word I would use advisedly)
Of the Nazi Camps
And THE BOMB
Between “Little Boy” and “Fat Man”
And The Infamous “Enla Gay”
And the massive monstrosity
Of Auschwitz

Between those two events
Humanity was suspended
And left hanging for future generations
Their social conscience bankrupted
A social and political system
turned against its population
Rendering them helpless and defenceless

For those who watched

What happened? What happened to their
sense of community?
Lay bare and wanting
With the question
Where was our ability to feel
horror and anger?

Couldn't we have done something?
To prevent or minimise it
A question that confronted
The international community

Has the portal to unbounded evil been opened
How can we ever speak of civilisation again?
How can we look future generations in the eye
And tell them of what we've done?

Horror compounds horror
Another layer of betrayal
another layer of self-deceit
Another parting of the way
Which way do you go?
The easiest of the hardest
Another brick in the Wall

How can we speak of Civilisation?
When we crush it, bomb it
To rubble? How can we speak of Culture
The arts, History and theatre when
We are parodying them all
In Praise of the Night

Duplicity is a function of Statecraft.
Is it? What then of lies, deceit
and disinformation? Collateral damage?
What is left? A mangled language?
Obscenely grotesque neon lights
their message devoid of substance

I prefer The Sound of Silence
That's loud enough!

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