

DO 'DIS:

Some thoughts culpability and moral responsibility

Sing a kaddish
fer all tortured Palestinians
& waltz slowly
fer each slaughtered Kosovo

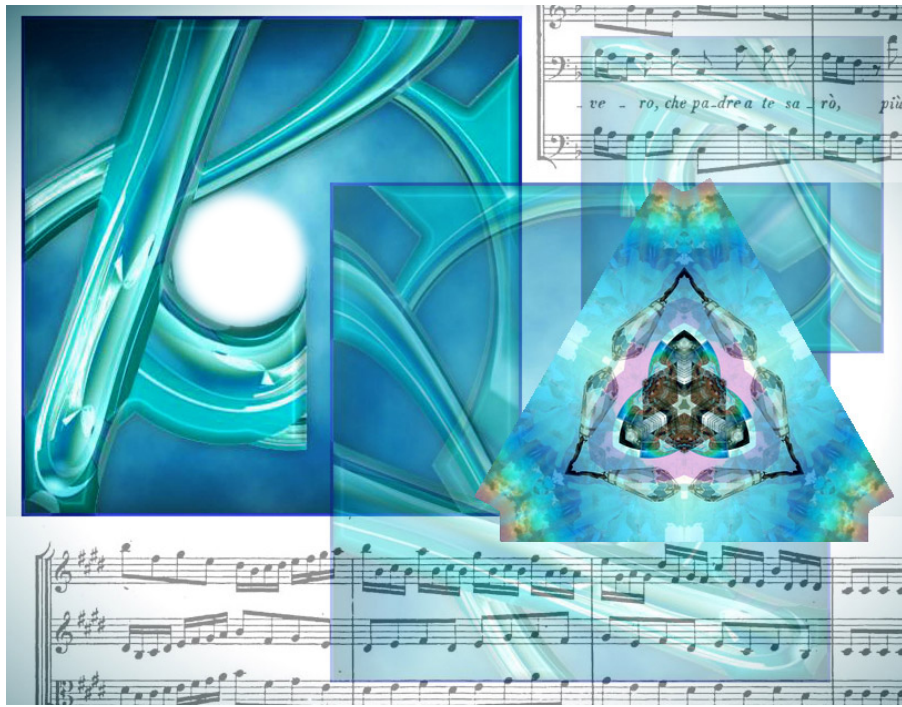
Write a poem
fer the starving Tutsis
then chant "Hail Mary"
fer each democracy overthrown

Do 'dis
azz ah celebration ah absurdity
azz ah ritual to our apathy
azz ah vision ah how bestial we can seem
& if you have the strength,
azz ah testament ah what
should never ever be allowed ta be.

- T Newfields

Begun: 1999 in Táoyuán, Táiwān ≡ Finished: 2019 in Yokohama, Japan





*As the fog of history lifts
& I think of all who've come before
this inquiry surfaces:
"Why did you allow those nightmares to be?"
"Why did you permit the rise of dictators
& mutations of humanity?"*

*Such questions become easy with the buffer of history,
yet at times I wonder
whether others will look at me & whisper
"Why did you allow the villains of your day to prosper?
Why didn't you help more people in need?"*

*Am I not every bit as guilty
as all placing comfort over conscience
or rationalizing injustice azz inevitability?*

Sam: This poem sucks!

Tim: Would you rather turn on the Disney channel?

Sam: (not really listening) Huh? Oh yeah, whad'ever . . . (closing his Eyes and humming a popular hit tune)

Tim: When faced with pain, most people want to ignore it. However, pain is actually our best teacher. It shows we need to learn.