

I. Still We Drudge in this Dark Maze

hear me –

ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one...

*maimed civilians
killed, murdered
unknown numbers
soldiers missing too*

horror

terror

violence

war

if only it was someone else's son...

mother screams

listen to me

war is the health of the state

dirtied

bloodied

stinking

prepare war for peace

*who do we believe?
who do we choose to follow?
what do we believe?*

prepare for peace, avoid war

we tortured some folks

justify

validate

execute

third world starves

second world fights

first world feasts

do future threats justify violence?

hit hurt hunt

are we ever justified?

no one listens

thousands of memorials to the dead of the past

honourable wars, soldiers
pride? propaganda? truth? memory?

one memorial to the dead in the future

atrocities, destruction, massacre
air raids – who dies – died?

shaming those who refuse

deserted, executed pacifist
– *it was his third tour*

world without war – dream ridiculed

ignored, irrelevant civilians
or just poor and peaceful

losing side – blamed, punished

out-witted, out-betted, conquered
– *they should have known better*
losers at fault

*I hate war
you love war?
I love my country
that's not the same
how do you know – for sure*

maimed wounded crippled mangled

only sit at my table if I knew your grandfather

casualties fatalities

I have earned the right to my opinion

Civil War, Great War, World War,
Hundred Years War, Thirty Years War, War of the Triple Alliance,
War on Terror, Overseas Contingency Operation

*there is never one point of view
one interest
one consequence*

money love power money

started and finished in an instance
pointless, never-ending, pause for peace

for God, king and country

they shall not grow old –

dead deadly done

– we are of our time

out of time

II. Living Picture of the Dead

they them themselves theirs

what images do you remember?
what images do they want you to remember?
 forever

– *they came in the middle of the night*
 – *they bombed my house*
 – *they left me behind to die*
 – *they started it*
 – *it is their fault*

strings for indoors – violin, harp – singing, dancing, flirting
 winds for outdoors – trumpets, drums – hunting, fighting, marching

thou shalt not kill
thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself

war
destruction, profits
hidden artefacts, uncovered, past, present, future

Boston Marathon
3 dead

shaking hand
fear, anxiety
excitement, love

World War One
estimated 17 million dead

white feather
coward
angel

7/7
52 dead

red rose, white rose
red poppy, white poppy

World War Two
50-70 million people dead

father carries his son
wounded
game, love

Hiroshima Nagasaki
129,000 – 246,000 dead

shovel
weapon, tool
death, life

Luxor, Egypt – massacre
62 dead – tourists targeted

fight
war, not at all
playground sport

Iraq
half a million war-related deaths
4,486 dead service men and women

women don't fight wars
bare-breasted, shield-maiden, myth denied,
a peaceful world if run by women

Tokyo Firebombing
125,000 dead

castle
protectors of common people
protected from common people

Syria
Estimated 200,000 dead and counting

church
*comfort, knowledge,
 obligation, hypnotic rhythms, shapes*

9/11
2,996 dead

army
*honourable protectors –
 uniforms marching, obeying in time*

Oslo, Norway
77 youths (communists?) dead

twisted metal
 jewellery
building torn apart

– are people killed in war or do they die?

the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing-fields of Eton;
 the opening battles of all subsequent wars have been lost there

child's body in the street

road accidents
1,240,000 killed – worldwide annually

man hangs dead on barbed wire

american guns
yearly 31,000 killed, 19,000 are suicides

woman raped in front of officials

hunger
kills 25,000 a day

soldier pours burning wax on woman

rape
250,000 cases reported in 65 countries annually

man beaten by police

smoking, alcohol, drugs
kills – impossible to count

pandora's box of death, disease, evil, torture, released

– *how do we warn the next generations*
 – *a thousand years in the future?*

tub–flies, maggots, impaled, brazen bull, heretic
 fork–head held high, cement shoes, judas cradle,
 brown rats, tongue tearer, rack, eaten by crows,
 thumbscrew, breast ripper, bleeding, submission,
 crocodile shears, republican marriage for nuns and
 monks, breaking wheel, spanish donkey/wooden
 horse, guillotine, prison of terror, crucifixion, rope,
 rape, roasting, water boarding

– kind one day, evil the next

false confessions, cheap, on-going
 – damage, permanent –
 on the pain of death

...this world in arms spends the hopes of its children

I dream of a child who asks: 'what was war, weapons, violence?'

– a multi-billion dollar industry

we've lost empathy

I me myself mine

III. Other Flowers Rise

Arabic, African, American, Asian, Inuit, European, Extremist

Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Atheist, Anarchist, Extremist

Racist, Anti-Semitic, Pro-terrorist, Sexist, Extremist

Fascist, Communist, Socialist, Conservative, Traditionalist, Extremist

Man, Woman, Child, Soldier, Politician, Civilian, Extremist

Bully, Master, King, Queen, Emperor, Empress, President, Pope, God, Extremist

Slave, Illegal, Hybrid, Common, Nobody, Somebody, Anybody, Extremist

Freedom fighter, Protector, Liberator, Peace keeper, Saviour, Extremist

Soldier, Warrior, Raider, Crusader, Invader, Attacker, Extremist

Victim, Maimed, Wounded, Missing, Dead, Extremist

Rich, Poor, Gunslinger, Mass-Murder, Pacifist, Populist, Extremist

Unknown, Known, Anonymous, Innocent, Guilty, Extremist

Vain, Lustful, Gluttonous, Greedy, Idle, Angry, Envious, Proud, Extremist

Virtuous, Bored, Billionaire, Employed, Enlightened, Privileged, Mediocre, Extremist

Eco-terrorist, Corporate-terrorist, Religious-terrorist, Cultural-terrorist, Extremist

Hero, Heroine, Victor, Winner, Favourite, Ideal, White Knight, Extremist

Radical, Fanatic, Devoted, Revolutionist, Extremist

Coward, Sissy, Chicken, Mouse, Scaredy-Cat, Weakling, Extremist

Reasonable, Sensible, Restrained, Temperate, Practical, Realistic, Liberal, Moderate

Moderate Extremist – Extremist Moderate

Does one need to love? Don't ask, feel it.

IV. The Larks, Still Bravely Singing

*I believe that order is better than chaos,
creation is better than destruction.
I prefer gentleness to violence,
forgiveness to vendetta,
knowledge to ignorance.
I believe in courtesyⁱ*

candles in the dark of winter
kiss under a full moon
kicking up dead leaves
whirlwind
masterpiece
cups of tea
quiet sunset
my child's first giggle
warm wind touching a tanned cheek
memories
miracles
happy exhaustion
nightingale singing at midnight
fresh sheets
smile from a stranger
joy of expectation

small delights make us human

*We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future.
And we are all mortal.*

in that rich earth a richer dust

who are the terrorists now?

Words, thoughts, ideas, images, and inspiration liberally borrowed and quoted from:

Amnesty International, Elizabeth Wayland Barber, Dominique P. Béhague, Jennifer Bendery, Thomas Bendixen, Laurence Binyon, Henri Lucien Chaffer, Dover Arts Development, Rupert Brook, Edmund Blunden, Jens Breivik, Randolph Bourne, Charles Chaplin, Diana Shaw Clark, Kenneth Clarke, Nigel Clarke, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Eleanor Farjeon, Robert Fisk, Colin Gill, Louis John Ginnett, Nancy Goldstone, Francisco Goya, Sadie Harrison, Holmens Kirke–Copenhagen, A. H. Houseman, Imperial War Museum–London, Jon Henley, Edvard Henley-Read, Jonathan Jones, John F. Kennedy, John Macrae, Adrienne Mayor, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Eve Merriam, Middle Tennessee State University, Paul Moorhouse, Suzanne More, John Nash, National Rifle Association, C.R.W. Nevison, Sir Henry Newbolt, Vasa Museum–Stockholm, President Barack Obama, William Orphan, George Orwell, Blaise Pascal, Sylvia Pankhurst, Pablo Picasso, Randeep Ramesh, Publius Flavius Vegetius Renatus, Malene Sheppard Skærvæd, Marius Sheppard Skærvæd, Peter Sheppard Skærvæd, John Singer Sargent, Morten Skærvæd, Mattias Skærvæd, Paul Verner Skærvæd, Reed Thomas, Ulla Skærvæd, Elly Strange Petersen, Reed Thomas, Lady Butler/Elizabeth Southerden Thompson, Henry Tonks, War Registers' International, Louise Vale, Louis Weirter, Benjamin West, Jon Wiant, amongst many more.

ⁱ Clark, Kenneth (1969, 2005). *Civilisation: A Personal View*. London: John Murray Publisher, BBC and John Murray; p.245