



**4000 Words 4000 Dead
&
Revolutionary Optimism**

An American Elegy: 2006-2012

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for the dead and the living
past present future

*"I want to start with the milestone today of 4000
dead in Iraq. Americans. And just what effect do you
think it has on the country?"*

— Martha Raddatz,
ABC News White House correspondent
to Dick Cheney on March 24, 2008

sad and memory children april quicken burning
unforgiven 4001st dust storms flight fight playground
wicked imaginations murders were endless and
bodies lost among ghosts unwar pyerance
absaygosaygo gnostrifricion mournth squabulation
splatterdox textualien thitherwar

1. blood
2. lies
3. raped
4. devastation
5. numbers
6. toll
7. destruction
8. pillaged
9. deception
10. blame

1. pandemic
2. pathetic
3. diabolical
4. disrespectful
5. grotesque
6. unwarranted
7. piteous
8. wretched
9. wrenching
10. malevolent

because we're harsh to them they are harsh to us
igneous immiscible mort-mucking mort-mucker prez
decrement (a loss or waste) why carri-on this dead
lan-guage stand stills eyes swell ex-hale still-born
isn't it enough? happenstance jiggery piecemeal
misfortune spare scarce detonating eden the apple
flies then explodes whose disassembly wires on
whelps apology imagine postlude humanity love
nurture help hope believe peace frond chant oil milk

honey straw rubble mosaic distended parch rank
rancor stinks (or sticks) to heaven there are many
many more than 4000 dead in iraq deployed to
pursue extremists and economic progress
democracy? hmmm...bully of the world
disgraceful irresponsible illegal reprehensible sorrow
inconsolable arab-wound saturate arms instantaneous
enemy-backed contracts rice contested-home roads
yu-ess-ess-yu-vees stop now these are the faces of
war her sadist maniacal band open dusts fracture
dune like civil wounds children eye rocking the rules
of the game are changing redundant undo anxiety
archaic mission hindrance figures love ask aplomb is
this what the WAR has turned our troops into?
history human destruction aerial cacophony valium
fight endure allies complicity balsamic inhalant
breakage legerdemain hope stoppage rhapsody olive
branch parse life i'll wear you within are you in
heaven now? that's 4000 too many -- a distinction
earned at the first fragile exhuming dante's
nightmares destructive despicable disgusting
disruptive disrespectful disingenuous dirty (and)
dumb no rain could wash the blood from our hands
tomb term lease limb grenade-proof worry saved
voice mails just in case bring america's sons and
daughters home from iraq now i knew a soldier,
lovely in his wounds you must get your living by
loving LYING FIRES FIRING LIARS troublesome
rendition conciliatory arsonist provocateur ringleader
zealot helpful evildoer rascally the war on terror
fights for itself unity is at oil companies haven't sent
their children why should i? capture relinquish
argumentative ground futile 4000 dead equals more
than 4000 mothers tears truculent silhouette
contemplative asininity empyreal dimpled spake
flaming tyrant redhead devilhead toothache brain
bright eyed kid shot corporation warlords slicing up

the pie we will be there war in reflection depletes our
country of its soul power prankstirs patriot tappity-
tap georgie sandbox freedom helicopter virginia is it
not enough fun to die the normal way? repeats
repeats tonsure marketplace arcady panoptic thistle if
because why remembrance infinite possibility
capillary intelligence luminous stumbling spreads is
like fucking for virginity an insignificant flake of
death the unspeakable civilian deaths the general said
are regrettable this without ocean quiet afternoon
dalliance wind jeune glide hyacinths return winnow
tourmaline juridical sane velvetize ransom
tumbleweed of thwack blister denial swallow chance
my father submitted in honor of my father who
served nest blue coat bathtub chop trumpet man
strange circus valley ishq (love) عشق 'amn (peace)
الحب habib (friend) حبيب iraq اعراق ya'ad
(remember) ياد my words would be sacrifice
challenge glory poem for an iraqi child no body bag
no flag children aren't created to walk the rails of
death's principles dumbass when i see videos of who
is actually doing NO hallowing stupor outworn rack
wreck corporeal interminable infamy bamboozled
pass on my word portentous murderous theft of life
body bereft of soul dehumanization inhuman
dehumanize inhumane humans human to numbers
we numb instead slowly feel each one arabian how
often have we (in our arrogance and ignorance) i'm
only going to say this once gloryhollahstoopid
extraordinary and rendition apart they mean little
together they mean four thousand into ground for
ground none own -- ground zero MORE THAN ON
SEPTEMBER 11: WHO'S THE BIGGER
TERRORIST GEORGE? mourn this unthinkable
wrong the dead become the white light of sky bazaar
mural library playground childbirth gazelle canyon
contradance asleep arabesque civilian city point limb

eulogize sorry body bodies hand instant each day the
power of soul-less-ness: it's called iraq monochord
stratagems numerous cornflower supportable crocus
snowdrop brightens weather behalf MEALT
SLUMBP GLAP TRONDA SEMP CHUB SORK
CRAMBP BLENT BUSHT debt owe mute abrupt
noise nourishment mysterious oblivious woods
marvel war imposes dislocation spiral posttraumatic
stress bent will extreme duress maze of a thumbprint
heroes saviors martyrs squalor subservience
servitude manipulation misinterpretation ideals
suppression cultural footsteps of living people erased
in bloody sand turns to wave remembers only one
way to go / gone my submission is here: and there is
more general walter nehrling commanded troops in
north africa hisham mohammed street vendor al attar
street karrada baghdad investigation are is and
detective gramophone speech daily valuable ends
essential upwards resist carry good concern courtship
even event eventide eventual ever every evangelical
evenhanded random arbitrary defeating radical islam
is going to require striking the proper begs this is to
pray we are making no direct our soldiers left blood
and bones in iraq spread love canard cock-and-bull
falsehood fib fiction misstatement prevarication story
tale untruth i have no nation i am an iraqi where over
earshot energy zoe and sam scott i've done too little
to stop this god forgive me no agency keeps track of
accurate numbers of iraqis killed fuck four thousand
how about one hundred thousand dead iraqis?
retaliate armed killer face see cities flying
devastating casualties everything karma pidgin
wampum jambalaya hocus pocus zombie algebra
الرجبر restoring missing 4000 dead 40,000 wounded
400,000 sorry songbird niagara falls liberty bell
payment pleasure heartbroken you are fillet
mortician semantics decimate lewd monger

concretize bunk billion vulgar legacy internecine coal
mercy ancestry memory reflection return reprieve
remember severed from death we fill cups with blood
over there i think i wish to offer buffalo as my word
person person person person person person person
person person person lovely honey-brown cleft foam
buttermilk syrup freckles barrel toothache my word
complicity friendly fire higher liar lyre apollo sun
son hijo amigo thrall wars of national liberation
ideology empire turning point isolationism frailty
mistrust waste

1. silence
2. fig
3. woman
4. witness
5. raze
6. sleep
7. ruin
8. starve
9. viscous
10. stone

desert inanna ur flood humbaba intestines purgatory
HUMAN PLASTIC SKIN BREAKS DOLLAR OIL
RIB BLOOM SAFELY FIRES foureignsoil
terrognation homelastness ousted unempirical
stem-senseless abducens nervation deserted my
word: wealth we will remember you we will not
forget you peter fonda captain america hillbilly kills
who will you be tomorrow? grain tar obscure name
metal/medal/meddle blanket bitter property public
fire-stations parks acquired private worship profits
crawl: spring didn't end...war...shelled
schoolhouse...fig bloomed early agriculture soon-to-
be disk grain each literally enriched anywhere
sending strong healing nurturing vibes from

to you all today TAL AFAR BOMBED: writing
began here nerve cinder bit ponderous whoever
islamica elegy whistle peace violin

1. absorbing
2. dictionary
3. encounter
4. old
5. animal
6. feather
7. desert
8. paper
9. light
10. arm

AVULSE CONCEIVE SLACKEN LOAF HARBOR
INVEIGLE HEAVEN TENSILE BROACH
NURTURANCE are you beaming or when do you
beam with pride? UNFORGIVABLE
UNTHINKABLE IRRETRIEVABLE
COMPLICITOUS RESPONSIBLE GRIEVOUS
HEINOUS ignoble avarice here's one: terrain
ecobondage smegma pucker amanecer campesino
recursion flop hole carnaval darrien

1. glimmer
2. night
3. stars
4. death
5. tears
6. child
7. pain
8. blood
9. flag
10. country

bushwa despair honesty forgiveness reconciliation
love conquers all forgiveness bravery truth agony
enlightenment dreams HELP help HELP help HELP
specious ab extra penury courtesan sloganeer
esophoria aerugo dither undefinable memento mori
my brightest students gone for soldiers every one
policeaction theAmericanway incomingincoming
holyfists thedecider sleepercells flourishes&ruffles
bodycount ourboys incidentalcasualties what were
we thinking of gold ocean of night wind uprooted
murder guilt compassion silence silent unmitigated
disaster execrable indefensible foolhardy hemorrhage
arterial unreason boondoggle tragedy crime violation
misery domination colonization bloodshed metallic
tarnish coprophagia cop / row / fah / gee / ah
dishonor deceit betrayal malfeasance impeach
nobility honor courage love endure

1. credit
2. imperialism
3. alterity
4. capital
5. absolutism
6. inequity
7. biopolitics
8. dogma
9. logos
10. eros

1. ridiculous
2. shameful
3. sham
4. sorry
5. hope
6. insanity
7. stop
8. club

9. human

10. greed

adumbrate persiflage levee invoke salt paper water
glisten tripod fingerpaint our family market raed
librarie shop garden food soldier songs needless
death inspired by a lie fo(u)r thou...knowest
all...pretty ones all? o hel[icopter] all? sorrow
humiliation loss fear grief OUTRAGE MORE
OUTRAGE US GOVERNMENT MALFEASANCE
DEMOCRACY IN DANGER ACT mourn this is
reality. . .this is mortality boeing ambitious over-
ambitious slackening transportation torso velleity
good luck bush has nothing to offer us but fear itself
pray for the dead fight like hell for the living apathy
country stabs self 4000 punctures too late already
numb cheney abu-graib gitmo waterboard halliburton
blackwater WMD fallujah rebuild \$ reduce forsake
assign lowly offices descent falsify lessen disparity
despair wailing belief kali durga athena sorry earth
gaia sound understand listen commandment oneness
attention honor future children question compassion
truth TOLERANCE WARMTH SOUL HUMAN
trouble: a soft pageant of rain sad sight so many flags
draped over coffins never seen 4000 dead billions of
dollars millions iraq palestine afghanistan genocided
limpid triggers hardly equivalent to just one act of
piracy requisite complete banishment weaponry
fraudulent mustard laundry public i want what use do
the dead have for words? good-bye population
boom? tomorrow differently we will eat orchids
together love disingenuous crude ventricle splatter
live/video/feed sepsis his first bike ride fast average
may temperature farah iraq: 142 degrees a farewell to
bomb leader as-salāmu `alaykum trigger fascist
purpose holy baba OPEC it is better to love than it is
to know musical term: lamentoso LIVE AND LET

