

URGENCY

David Sparenberg

They took him out
They took him out
And nailed him to a cross
Because he said, Love one another
Love one another
And when you hunger
Do not argue, do not bicker
Share your bread
When you thirst
Pass over to your sisters
And your brothers
The renewal of water
Look around you
Look here and here and here
Behold
The Living Earth.

They took her out
They took her out
And burned her until she was dead
Because she said
I have dreamed a dream
I dreamed I was a bird
And flying
Was as common as the air
They set fire to her hair
And her voice became the hue of smoke
Her tears as silent
As the bitter gall of stones
Look around you
Look here and here and here
Behold
The raw and naked agony.

They took him out
They took him when he was but a boy
And filled his lungs with poison gas
And riddled his flesh
With the puckered searing Lucifers of bullets
And his voice cried out
Against the urgency of death
Look around you
Look around you
Look here and here and here
Behold
The dying of the earth.
The deaf
Sit in carts

The blind
Whose hands resemble the hands of
butchers
Drag the screaming machinery of war
Along the crooked roads of time.

They took white lilies
And planted white lilies
In the opened heads of children
Red roses
In the wombs of mothers
But the thorns they kept
Eons upon eons
For the lonely and the holy ones
Who might bleed
For the sins of others
Who might shudder and awaken
To the dream of freedom
Who might shudder and sing
From the wordless and rebellious
Songs of love
Look around you
Look around
Look here and here and here
Behold
What honesty shows you
What revelation tells you
Must now be done.



Painting: Lona Towsley