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About Suffering: Response to W.H. Auden

by Daniel R. Schwarz

About suffering they could be wrong,
The Old Masters: when and if they ignored
effects of massacres,
cry of mothers who
have lost their kin and kind,
when and if they could not imagine
paranoid fantasies triggering
psychotic explosive acts:
fingers wedded to guns,
perambulatory mindbombs.

For every Guernica,
there has been sound of silence.
Take Picasso's Vichy days:
Did he notice when
friend Max Jacobs disappeared?

Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia, Oklahoma City:
The Massacre of Innocents
is everywhere, takes many forms.
While Icarus drops from sky,
Others lose parents, child, hope.

