

NOTRE DAME: SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

Gone in a puff of smoke... the Heart-Poem-Jewel Notre Dame

Over a thousand years of History!

My tears flow... the Seine and Paris

In mourning cannot extinguish the flames

Groans of agony drown the crowd...

The whole world... awakens aghast

At the tortured, massacred Lady of Miracles

Within, a giant Cross

Lights Mary's face... present here and there

By the Rose windows... Happy Easter

The Great and Small of the Universe

Declaim flaming rhymes and rhythms

Leaving at Point Zero

Only a ... vigorous / ailing Word... Hope

Vows to see the Spire reborn

Crowning Notre Dame rebuilt

Silent Prayers and Meditation coil

Luminosity and Beauty restored

We will not all be there... But

We will put the finishing touches

To the flight... to revive Beauty and Spirituality

Gorged with relics... the Gallic cock

Fallen from the sky... is found again...

Its wings beating... Miracle beyond belief

History will return to its youth

Hédi Bouraoui

Université York, Toronto

Le 16 avril 2019

Translated by Elizabeth Sabiston