

The Gorge of Desire

It's what he wa



It's what he wants WHAT



It's what he wants WANTS

It's what he wants IT IS



It's what he wants IT IS



It's what he wants IT IS what he wants



The Gorge of Desire



It's what he wants.

To get out of this poem

he squirms

it's worms

the allusion

and the illusion is the foot

for you to stomp with

or a hook

a question to hang him from.

What? What can he possibly want?

He slips in and out between the words

in and *out* and he penetrates the letter *o*

and it makes him feel good.

This is what he wants.

He thinks the letter *o* is a way out.

Oh no.

He thinks it's the opening between a woman's legs.

He wants out and he wants in.

He wants the feel of forbidden sin.

It's what he wants
WANTS

He uses bombers and missiles
and goes in and into Iraq.

A woman on her back.

The cradle, the source,
the garden of civilization
and no one in the world

(Wait. Wait. Some still have arms, not all
fingers broken, blasted, bloodied. Wait.)



so no one will write the words

Stop This Evil War

Stop This Madness

No. No. It's His Official Badness.

Why it's Richard Soulful Nixon.

He's the Bad Man. He's the Rap Man.

George Bush be no Wimp-Man.

He be a Big Bad Boss Man.

It was Dick. It was Dick.

Hit the target with my Stick.

May you sick. That's my trick.

Say the word. Flick the bird.

Drop the load. Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh.

Oh I got you/

Love those B-52s.

And Oh, Oh, it feels good. Now
let George do it, he says
Over and over again.
Let George do it and do it and do it again.

You were numbed into paralysis by 20,000 bombings.
How now? 40,000, 60,000, 100,000.
Vietnam, more than all the bombs dropped during World War II.
Iraq, smart bombs dropped upon the stupid peoples of this earth.

This is the earth screaming.
Mother Earth. This
is your mother.
Mother Earth and Father Bombardier!



It's what he wants.
He never sings:
 The bombs the bombs they are a falling
 falling, falling.
 When will we stop them?

George is a case, man.
We aint seen nothing quite like him.
He wants to be a bad fucker.
He does but there's a poet
that's got him by the balls.

It's me.

I got him by his Bs and Us and Sh-h-h-h

I aint letting go.

I won't let him out of this poem

so he can use his little dickie on the boys and girls.

Everybody knows he's an ass licker but

he wants to be an ass kicker.

First Geraldine Ferraro

then Manuel Noriega

next Saddam Hussein.



First the desire to beat a woman

then turn the gun on a man

then beat him again and again.

Aint it always so

but I won't let him go.

He stays.

I tell him take your boom boom cock

and leave it in your pants.

No is impressed by the size of your military weenie.

I tell him stay in these words

and I wish it was *these woods*

and he was lost

and he could never get out

and I wish the word *spider* had fangs

It's what he wants. IT IS

and the web of my words would hold him fast

but I tie him down as best I can.

I take these words *George* and *Bush*

and I tie them down to something.

I tie them down to these words: Stealth and Bomber.

And if George wants out of this poem

I'll fly him under the government grant radar
selection committee

because I hope the NEA would consider him
too obscene for governmental funding.

Robert Maplethorpe's ghost is singing to you George:

You're In, You're In

You want to be god

now you're in and you're it.



You'll be invisible to the watchful eyes
of academic literary critics.

The critics have never accepted these words as poetry:

The bombs they are a falling
falling, falling.

Why do we let them?

And I'll fly him to Iraq

hanging on my bomb rack
so he can see
what George Bush be.



He be oil wells flaming
and the smoke gets in our eyes
and we don't see the Savings and Loan payments
deducted from our paychecks
and the military contracts getting bigger
and the young white males strapping on the armor
the skin hardening, muscles pumping, eyes glazed.

The military done put the Hex on all of us.
Why didn't he condemn Exxon?
Now one power drunk commander-in-chief
spills more blood
than one drunken skipper spilled oil

It's what he wants WANTS

and the birds with dried caked red wings die
and baby seals dive
red trails following them like tracer bullets.

George Bush wants your son to die
so you'll forget about his son denying
with a straight face he had conflict of interests.
But there are no faces straight when the fragments of steel
shatter the flesh, the brown flesh of strangers

he thinks matters less than oil
owned by sheiks and his friends safe in Texas.

It was No More Taxes.

Read our lips.

The silent sound of horror. Oh
the disbelief, the mute switch hit
on remote controls on every television
too terrible for CNN.

I'll never let him out of my poem
because he wants my daughter
to die in the desert of his imagination
or he would have made health not war,
a health plan not some general's master plan
so she would not have had to enlist
for benefits that are the right of all
not some recruiter's flag to wave
to fill his quota
that fills the body bags.



He wants those black people to die,
those people he's seen on television
and heard on radio.

Not Colin Powell that white man in tan face
the man who is a credit to his race

to the top of the heap
on the bodies of brown
like Vietnam, Nicaragua, Panama, Soweto, Selma

and then there's James Brown.

I tell him to stay in prison.

It's safer there than in Iraq

safer than in South Bronx

safer than in Detroit

'cause the money's long gone to the desert



(I say Let Dan Do It,

but he say Fore! Play on and on.

I got my own cock to rub up against some country.

It'll be my turn to invade someday.)

because he vetoed the civil rights bill

leaving the equal opportunity to kill

people of color in a land far from home.

Why didn't he bomb Botha's armies?

Why no surgical strike against De Klerk's security forces?

George Bush wants us.

He wants us to believe that the line drawn in the sand

was drawn on August the Second

instead of the day the wall came tumbling down

in old Berlin.

Without an enemy in the military is out,
the military is down
but Bush wants us to believe he didn't set Hussein up
as the Humpty Dumpty fall guy
needed to shatter before our eyes in the fairy tale
of his imagination
to distract us from seeing that
there is not an enemy other than what he wants

more target for his bullets and bombs
and he wants to escape my poem



but I want him to stay in my poetry.
I want him to stay in all poetry.
I want him to stay in our literature forever

so we will not forget.

We must never forget what George Bush wants.

He wants us to watch on television
and see how smart are the bombs.
The video cameras at the end of the bomb.
He wants to explode us with images
of cheerleaders with death masks.
He wants the conspiracy of experts.

He wants the smiles of generals.

We must never forget
what George Bush wants

for what he wants more than war
what he wants more than fewer taxes for the rich
(even more than a perpetual erection)
is for you and is for me
what he wants for us
what he wants for us
is for us to want
what George Bush wants.



Written January
1991. Just like T. S.
Eliot for The Waste
Land, notes were
added later.



It's what he wants IT IS what he wants

NOTES



NOTES: for the curious, “The Gorge of Desire”



*The cradle, the source,
the garden of civilization*

Iraq has been known by the Greek toponym ‘Mesopotamina’ (*Land between the rivers*) and has been home to continuous successive civilizations since the 6th millennium BC. The region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is often referred to as the cradle of civilization and the birthplace of writing. [“Iraq” *Wikipedia* 7 July 2013]

It’s His Official Badness.

Why it’s Richard Soulful Nixon.

Richard Nixon, 37th president, best known for the Watergate break-in, resulting impeachment, and subsequent pardoning by President Gerald Ford. The reference to “rap” is not only to music but for Nixon taking the rap for Kissinger’s dirty tricks. Interesting, though, is the tie it to the Nixon years:

James Brown is credited for inventing funk music in the middle '60s. The characteristic funk drum beat is the most common rhythm used for rap music. Two of the earliest recordings which have a funk beat and lyrics which are rhymed in rhythm over this type of beat were released by comedian Pigmeat Markham, "Here Come the Judge" which was released in 1968 by the Chess label and in 1969 another song about running numbers called "Who Got The Number?". "Here Comes the Judge" peaked at number 19 on the Billboard charts. While it was primarily a comical song about a Judge and his courtroom it is also notable for the political lyrics "I'm goin' to Paris to stop this war" and "I had a chat with Ho Chi Minh" both social commentary references about wanting to go to the Paris Peace Accord negotiations to stop the war in Vietnam. [“rapping” *Wikipedia*, July 9, 2013]

For Nixon and Kissinger’s role in sabotaging the peace:

Simply put, some of the ugliest tactics of the modern Republican Party can be traced to Richard Nixon. Indeed, he could be viewed as providing the DNA for today’s GOP operatives who make quasi-racist appeals to white Southerners and who seek to suppress the votes of blacks and other minorities.



And arguably, the granddaddy of all electoral dirty tricks occurred in 1968 when Nixon's presidential campaign went behind President Johnson's back and got the South Vietnamese government to boycott Paris peace talks just as Johnson was on the verge of bringing the bloody Vietnam War to an end.

[Robert Parry "Richard Nixon's Even-Darker Legacy" *Consortiumnews.com* February 2, 2013]

George Bush (senior) as wimp:

The label has left Bush's friends and family pained and perplexed. "He's been reduced to a cartoon," fumes son Jeb. (Literally. Last week the "Doonesbury" strip portrayed voters matter-of-factly describing Bush as a wimp.) ["Bush Battles the 'Wimp Factor'" Oct 19, 1987 5:57 PM EDT [*Newsweek* The Daily Beast July 10 2013.]

Dick: Richard Nixon

Number of bombs dropped during the Vietnam War:

By the end of the war, 7 million tons of bombs had been dropped on Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia - more than twice the amount of bombs dropped on Europe and Asia in World War II. [Howard Zinn *A People's History of the United States*].

Number of bombs dropped in Gulf War I

On March 15, 1991, the Air Force released information stating that 93.6% of the tonnage dropped were traditional unguided bombs. So we have something like 82,000 tons of bombs that were non-precision guided and only 7,000 tons of guided bombs. This is not surgical warfare in any accurate sense of the term and more importantly in the sense that was commonly understood by the American public. Bombs were, moreover, not the only source of explosives rained down upon Iraq. Artillery shells from battleships and rocket launchers amounted to an additional 20,000 to 30,000 tons of explosives. [Paul Walker "U. S. Bombing: the myth of surgical bombing in the Gulf War." *deoxy.org/wc/wc-myth.htm*. The Commission of Inquiry for the International War Crimes Tribunal. 1992. 9 July 2013.]

ass licker

George Bush had always sucked up to power. Son of a senator (once almost tried for being a Nazi collaborator), attended prep schools and Yale, a congressman after moving to Texas and getting rich in the oil business, tried to win a senate seat but was promised government jobs by Nixon (Ambassador to the UN, Chair of the Republican National Committee, CIA Director), then Ronald Reagan's vice president, and, finally, elected the 41st president. The Bush-Saudi connection is well documented now. A typical finding:



The Bush dynasty has always been comfortable putting profits before patriotism. Prescott Bush, Bush Senior's father, extended credit to Adolph Hitler and supplied him with raw materials during World War II. The U. S. seized his assets under the Trading with the Enemy Act, but grandfather Bush found other ways to replenish the family coffers.

Bush Senior struck it rich in oil and in the defense industry. Mahfouz (yes, that Mahfouz), Prince Bandar and Prince Sultan (Bandar's father) were also heavily invested in the defense industry through their holdings in the Carlyle Group, where Bush Senior served on the board of directors. Founded in 1987 as a private investment group with strong connections to the Republican Party establishment, Carlyle increased its original investment of \$130 million to \$900 million when it went public in 2001. [Michelle Mairesse "The Bush-Saudi Connection" *hermes-press.com/BushSaud.htm* 9 July 2013]

First Geraldine Ferraro

the first woman vice-presidential nominee, 1984. George Bush tried to make her appear weak, not manly enough for the job. Her response: "Let me just say, first of all, that I almost resent, Vice President Bush, your patronizing attitude, that you have to teach me about foreign policy."

"Remembering Geraldine Ferraro, First Female Major Ticket VP Candidate." *PBS Newshour* 10 July 2013.]

then Manuel Noriega

Noriega, considered "outstanding" at the SOA, is on the CIA payroll (to the tune of up to 100,000 a year) from the mid-60s to the mid-80s. In 1988, Noriega told his deputy in the Panamanian Defense Forces: "I've got Bush by the balls." ...The Organization of American States approved a

resolution "to deeply regret the military intervention in Panama" by a vote of 20 to 1 (the US). "[Panama: The Resume of Manuel Noreiga, the Most Famous Graduate of the School of the Americas" www.-personal_umich.edu/7 July, 2013

next Saddam Hussein

Like Noriega, Hussein was also a friend of George Bush, and after Noriega's fate, Hussein should have known better:



In death, Hussein couldn't disclose what George W. Bush's first Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said during that famous hand-shake meeting in 1983, nor whether he got an alleged message from Vice President George H.W. Bush in the mid-1980s about how best to deploy Iraq's air force against Iran, nor if then-deputy CIA director Robert Gates was running interference for Iraq's military supply line in the 1980s.

[Robert Parry "FBI Ignored Bush-Hussein Ties." *consortiumnews.com* 15 July 2013]

Stealth and Bomber

While no aircraft is totally invisible to radar, stealth aircraft make it difficult for conventional radar to detect or track the aircraft effectively, increasing the odds of a successful attack. "Stealth Aircraft" *Wikipedia*. 9 July 2013]

NEA

National Endowment for the Arts

Robert Maplethorpe

Maplethorpe died in 1989. During the Bush years Republicans in Congress used his work to push to defund public support for the art.

and we don't see the Savings and Loan payments

The Bush family was heavily "invested" in the Savings and Loan scandal, but Neil Bush was most involved. At the age of thirty, he was appointed director of Silverado Savings and Loan. Three years, 1988 it collapsed, costing the American taxpayers \$1.3 billion. According to *Wikipedia*, "The US Office of Thrift Supervision investigated Silverado's failure and determined that Bush had engaged in numerous "breaches of his fiduciary duties involving multiple conflicts of interest." Also of note, George Bush began the Desert Storm invasion of Iraq shortly after the scandal hit the news. Few people remembered or cared much about Neil after that.

Why didn't he condemn Exxon?

The *Exxon Valdez* oil spill occurred in Prince William Sound, Alaska, on March 24, 1989, when Exxon Valdez, an oil tanker bound for Long Beach, California, struck Prince William Sound's Bligh Reef. . . .It is considered to be one of the most devastating human-caused environmental disasters. ["Exxon Valdez oil spill" *Wikipedia* 14 July 2013]



It was No More Taxes

Read my lips: no new taxes" is a now-famous phrase spoken by then American presidential candidate George H. W. Bush at the 1998 Republican National Convention as he accepted the nomination on August 18.

["Read my lips" *Wikipedia* 14 July 2013]

that fills the body bags

US officials have sought since the Vietnam War to control media use of conflict images. Since the 1991 Gulf War, they have banned photographers from covering the return of military coffins to the US. "Waking up to body bags" 11 April 2004 theage.com.au 14 July 2013]

Not Colin Powell

On March 16, 1968, a bloodied unit of the American division stormed into a hamlet known as My Lai 4. With military helicopters circling overhead, revenge-seeking American soldiers roused Vietnamese civilians -- mostly old men, women and children -- from their thatched huts and herded them into the village's irrigation ditches. As the round-up continued, some Americans raped the girls. Then, under orders from junior officers on the ground, soldiers began emptying their M-16s into the terrified peasants. Some parents desperately used their bodies to try to shield their children from the bullets. Soldiers stepped among the corpses to finish off the wounded....

Powell made a perfunctory investigation. Powell reported back exactly what his superiors wanted to hear. "In direct refutation of this [Glen's] portrayal," Powell concluded, "is the fact that relations between American soldiers and the Vietnamese people are excellent." ["Behind Colin Powell's Legend—My Lai" *The Consortium* The Consortium.com 14 July 2013]

safer than in Detroit

'cause the money's long gone to the desert

Cost of Gulf War I:

How much did the US pay for the Gulf War above and beyond the yearly cost for supporting its military? The US Department of Defense estimated the incremental cost at \$61 billion. ["How Much Did the Gulf War Cost the US?" people.psych.cornell.edu/~fhoran/gulf/GW_cost/GW_payments.html. 14 July 2013]

Cost of Gulf War II:

The U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will cost taxpayers \$4 trillion to \$6 trillion, taking into account the medical care of wounded veterans and expensive repairs to a force depleted by more than a decade of fighting, according to a new study by a Harvard researcher. ["Iraq, Afghan wars will cost to \$4 trillion to \$6 trillion, Harvard study says." Ernesto Londerio *Washington Post*. Washingtonpost.com 28 March 2013 14 July 2013]

(I say Let Dan Do It

Dan Quayle, Bush's vice-president, most noted for not being able to spell "potato".

because he vetoed the civil rights bill

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush vetoed a civil rights bill requiring employers to show a "business necessity" to screening out women or minority applicants, arguing that it would impose quotas for hiring minorities. [Ali Frick "McCain defiant on vote against 1990 civil rights bill." *Think Progress* Thinkprogress.org. Apr 11, 2008. 15 July 2013]

Why didn't he bomb Botha's armies?

Pieter Willem Botha was the prime minister of South Africa from 1978 to 1984 and the first executive state president from 1984 to 1989.

Why no surgical strikes again De Klerk's security forces?

Frederik Willem de Klerk (b. March 18, 1936) was the last State President of apartheid-era South Africa, serving from September 1989 to May 1994. De Klerk was also leader of the National Party (which later became the New National Party) from February 1989 to September 1997. [*ew World Encyclopedia* newworldencyclopedia.org 14 July 2013.]

the day the wall came tumbling down

On November 9, 1989, East Germany removed restrictions of travel to the West, and the border separating Western from Eastern Germany was opened.

but Bush wants us to believe he didn't set Hussein up

On 25 July 1990, the U.S. Ambassador in Iraq, April Glaspie, asked the Iraqi high command to explain the military preparations in progress, including the massing of Iraqi troops near the border.

The American ambassador declared to her Iraqi interlocutor that Washington, "inspired by the friendship and not by confrontation, does not have an opinion" on the disagreement between Kuwait and Iraq, stating "we have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts."

She also let Saddam Hussein know that the U.S. did not intend "to start an economic war against Iraq". These statements may have caused Saddam to believe he had received a diplomatic green light from the United States to invade Kuwait. ["Invasion of Kuwait" *Wikipedia* 15 July 2013]

and see how smart are the bombs

In the Gulf War, just 3 percent of bombs were precision-guided. That figure jumped to 30 percent in the 1999 bombing of Yugoslavia, and to nearly 70 percent during the Afghan air campaign last year.

Yet in each case, the ratio of civilian casualties to bombs dropped has grown.

[*October 22, 2002* Scott Peterson, *The Christian Science Monitor*]



Read my lips!



Hillary Clinton shaved her va jay jay..ala Brittany Spears et al. and at the last debate she lifted her skirt and said "Read my lips.. no more Bush"..



Round about the Bush graphics



George as a ghoul needs little explanation. But Barbara as a modern Medusa might not be as obvious. My friend Barbara Mor (the most radical and relevant poet) many years ago told me that she was designing a bumper sticker :

BARBARA BUSH'S WOMB : the most toxic site in America

I suggested that she not. This metaphor would likely get her killed. George's wife and W's mother's most revealing statement was **Why should we hear about body bags and deaths? It's not relevant. So why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?** Mostly forgotten now, these words should have been chiseled onto the gravestones of every victim of her husband's invasion of Iraq.

A hundred years before Desert Storm, William Blake published what has turned out to be a prophecy of the false unity of George H. Bush's New World Order and also an illustration of the mindset exemplified by his wife's statement about her beautiful (toxic) mind. Madam Bush is best explained through a reading of William Blake's **Vala, the Four Zoas**.

The original innocence of the human mind (even of the Bushes) is corrupted by a Urizenic logic far removed from sense experience, a logic exemplified by the emotional inability (and refusal) to feel the pain of others, and consequently to accept the responsibility for such pain. This initial innocence is perverted by Vala who becomes the Shadow Female who spawns destruction and discord. Ms Bush though is best seen as the fallen Enion, masochistic maternity, resulting in "All love is lost; Terror succeeds, & Hatred instead of Love."

[Barbara's dress is the one worn by Marilyn Monroe when she sang "Happy Birthday" to President Kennedy, the sexual predator who opened the celebrity door for Bill Clinton and Donald Trump to walk through and become media-made presidential porn stars. Blake would have understood how the American public would continually idolize and vote into office the false god Urizon hell bent on bringing to fruition the fall of America along with Blake's once green and pleasant land.]

After : The Gorge of Desire 1991 & 2020

The only changes in the general subject of the poem have been for the worse : the second Gulf War by Bush Junior, the election of Trump in America, Trump Lite (Boris Johnson) in Blake's Albion, the resurgence of a particular thugish form of fascism throughout the world.

This version of The Gorge is changed by the addition of graphics and notes. The poem raises a question : Why bother? The poem with the inclusion of graphics and notes asks : Why not?

As a poem it is barely readable.
As a book, perhaps it may be.

The English language, the language of the past British Empire, the language of the present, American Empire, is in rapid decline. Meaning has lost its physical base, replaced by monetary profit. Marx's insight about Capital's assault on intrinsic value has been verified throughout the world : There is not a thing not for sale. The most prophetic show on U.S. television, begun almost 50 years ago, is The Price is Right.

American poetry, surrendering to the Academy (universities, NEA, state arts agencies), has resulted in U. S. poets losing their Body, forgetting that headwork, to have value, is also handwork.

No poem will stop this assault.

But Read My Lips :

Some book might.