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## AT THE MASKED BALL

*Al ballo mascherato*

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Christ drugged by too many defeats  
yields to the complicity  
of Nobel who shows him the practicality  
of a possible prize for goodness.  
Mary ignored by an Oedipus who is now shrewd  
mimes her nostalgia for the nativity,  
and I with my bomb bring the novelty,  
the bomb which makes its debut in society  
at the masked ball of celebrity.

Dante at the door of Paolo and Francesca  
spies on those who are better than him:  
behind there he tells a normal love  
but he will know how to make it so genial.  
And the journey to hell now you must make alone  
with the last envy left there under the sheets,  
surprised at the door of a happiness  
the bomb spared normality  
at the masked ball of celebrity.

The bomb doesn't have a kind nature  
but pushed by impartiality  
it upsets the improbable intimacy  
of an apparent statue of Mercy.  
Grimhilde from Manhattan, Statue of Liberty,  
now your vanity no longer has any rivals  
and the mirror trick will not be repeated:  
"Am I more beautiful, or the statue of Mercy"  
after the masked ball of celebrity.

Nelson torn from his carnival  
runs after his identity  
and looks for his mask, his pride, his style,  
always committed to winning and never to dying.  
Then from the felucca now in shreds  
he tries to pull out the rabbit of his Trafalgar  
and in his agony, spread here and there,  
he begs a Sant'Elena also in shared ownership  
at the masked ball of celebrity.

My father expects aspirins and affection  
and trips up on his authority,  
entrusts to a dressing gown his last role  
but he explodes afterwards, first his decorum.  
My mother approves of herself  
in pieces of broken mirror  
she should accept the bomb serenely  
martyrdom is her trade, her vanity,  
but now she accepts that she will only half-die  
her alive part makes her feel sorry for herself  
at the masked ball of celebrity.

Somebody left the moon in the bath  
only half lit  
the little that I need to count the dead,  
to amaze myself at their fragility,  
and now you can remove your feet from my neck  
friend, you who have always taught me "how it's  
done"  
if I don't take you back a few minutes  
I'll get you to talk, I'll sit you down  
between Nelson and the statue of Mercy  
at the masked ball of celebrity.

Le traduzioni di Mark Worden qui presenti sono la trasposizione letterale in lingua inglese dei testi delle canzoni contenute nell'album. È severamente vietata la riproduzione del testo in tutto o in parte.

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