

Pyrrhic liturgy

Hannah Graham

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A poem about the enculturated rhetoric, rituals and degradation ceremonies within tabloid news cycles and consumption, and the costliness of their collateral consequences.

Give us this pyrrhic victory
in bold typeface, front page,
our daily bread
for an appetite
we don't deny,
can't afford,
won't suffice.

Give us this pyrrhic liturgy
in breaking news red,
a daily feed
of other lives
captioned and capitalised
in hindsight –
other lives we won't recognise
ourselves in;
bricolaged demise we can't reconcile
our part in.

Deliver us from evil
as we make desert
in consuming those
who transgress against us.

For such is the enmity,
the power and the piety,
it compels over and over, again.