

## ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE

Did you ever hear or see someone  
Who didn't speak your language  
And therefore tried to communicate  
By talking louder, more slowly,  
With strangely exaggerated articulation?

Or witness a conversation  
Between someone upset, angry,  
And the person or object they're angry with?  
The loud, perhaps profane, exclamations of harm done  
Fouls committed  
Injustices foisted upon the victim,  
Who, by definition, is as free of fault  
As young Joan roasting on an open fire?

Or the doe-eyed couple,  
Who, in mistaking, intentionally or not,  
Passion for devotion,  
Profess their undying love  
As they shed their clothing  
And leap head-long into animalistic explosions  
Of promises, lies, and sugar-coated clichés  
All in the name of orgiastic sex?

Or watched the evening news?  
You know the story –  
The saddest ever ...  
The worst storm ...  
The greatest challenge ...  
Most devastating event ...  
Superlatives run on top of superlatives ...  
Only to be out-superlatived  
The next night  
On the next news show  
When, against all odds,  
Yesterday's amazing events  
Are eclipsed  
Overshadowed  
Made small  
In comparison to  
This very day's events?

Ah, where would we be without orders of magnitude?