

## NOW THAT THE GUNS ARE SILENT

Look at me, if you wish ...  
revulsion in your gaze ...

I am no monster!

I chose ... a mere child ...  
if to live in fear I must, then to fight was just ...  
and I took up arms ...  
against all the laws of god and state ...

children are seldom burdened with nuance.

The day the guns fell silent,  
life, for me, stopped ...  
30 years of certainty – as ugly as it might have been - vanished ...

I had no other calling,  
no grand purpose or aim,  
save the ones, now ashes, consumed in the fires of a peace without victory,  
a cessation, yet no end ...  
leaving me only memories of dreams once dreamt  
hopes once wished for ...  
echoes now lost ...  
now that the guns are silent.