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## *While Others Dream / After Violence / Estranged*

Dwight E. Humphries

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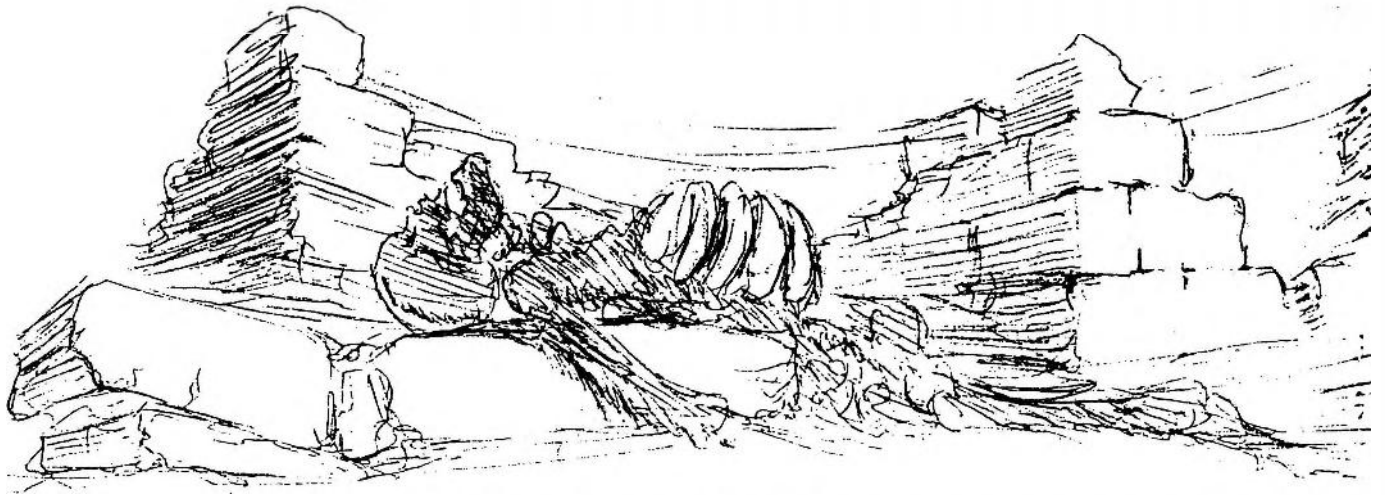


### Abstract

While Others Dream: Awake while others dream I cast dusty eyes Over my heart's ruins. After Violence: Blood will not be erased; Though streets foam With a muddy flood Stains nothing can Wash away remain Estranged: I am isolate, Estranged from all I see Though I am its master.

### Additional Keywords

Poetry; While Others Dream; After Violence; Estranged; Dwight E. Humphries



## WHILE OTHERS DREAM

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by Dwight E. Humphries

Awake while others dream  
I cast dusty eyes  
Over my heart's ruins.  
Jagged, cracked,  
The lichened ramparts  
Are askew,  
Lightening struck  
By powers unknown.

Heat shimmers in bleak dark  
And warms nothing;  
Stones gleam, malice eyes.  
Awake, I see empty hours  
Stagger their wounded way,  
Vessels of echoing ages  
Nothing filled.  
The land is in aftermath,  
Ghost of bitter rage  
Ready for battle fury,  
Ready for mowing.

Conscious of loss,  
Pain too searing deep  
For holding,  
I see the vacuum  
Eternal as a sacred eye,  
Bone hand steel wielding.  
Among the silence  
I see broken treasures,  
Old hopes when love reigned  
Now whirlwind gone.  
Awake, I see infinity's empty web.  
Besieged, I have few illusions,  
But cherish those that remain.

## AFTER VIOLENCE

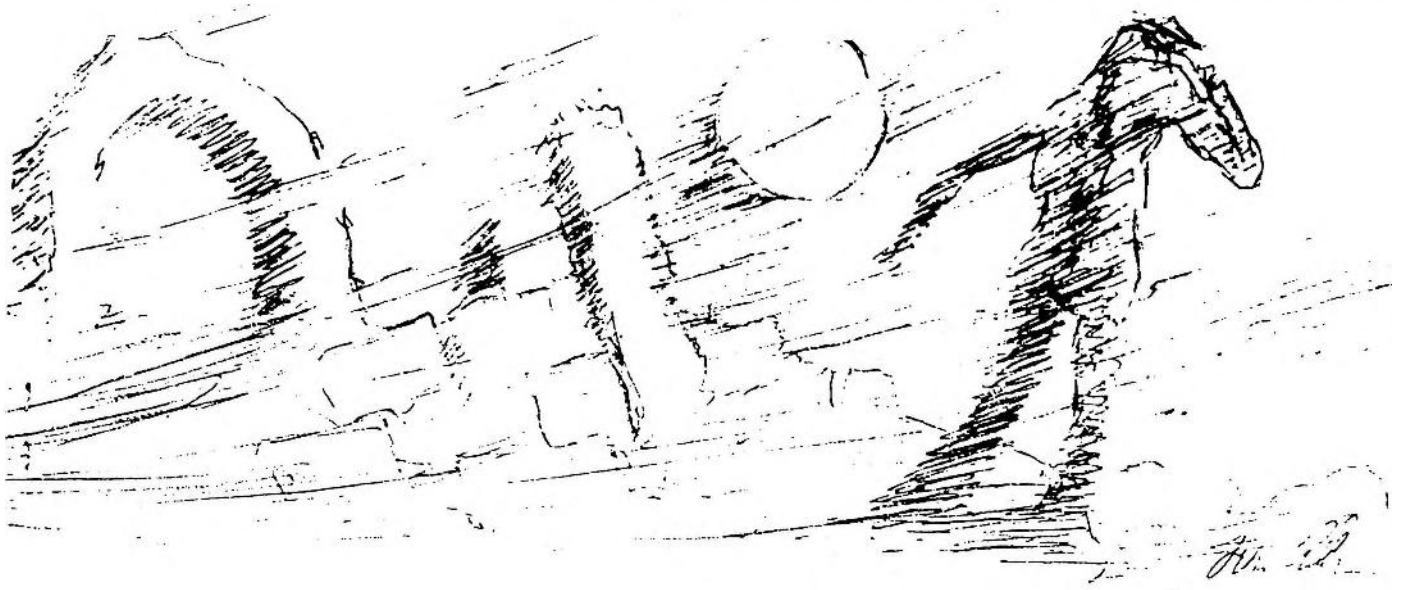
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by Dwight E. Humphries

Blood will not be erased;  
Though streets foam  
With a muddy flood  
Stains nothing can  
Wash away remain,  
No salvation after violence  
No peace anywhere else.  
There is nowhere but here  
Where stones have drunk--  
Ghosts rise with  
Each step I take.

No writhing can  
Free this earth;  
Time has fallen,  
There is nothing to wait  
But more pain, more torment  
To rouse my twisted wrath.

I'm left behind  
After the final war,  
Forgotten on  
A skeletal world  
With demons and worse--



## ESTRANGED

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by Dwight E. Humphries

I am isolate,  
Estranged from all I see  
Though I am its master.  
Wrapped in flesh mail,  
My brain is a wilderness  
Unknown, uncharted,  
My sight a savage beacon.

Clothed in mortality  
My earth remains  
In another place,  
Another time.  
There is no one else to  
Grasp my fitful symbols,  
My unheard signs.  
None but darkness  
Grasps  
The fury  
Behind my eyes--  
Rage untold,  
Wars unknown though  
Empires have crumbled.

A universe unto myself,  
Millennia stagger to no end.  
A bitter fate indeed  
The lord should be alone,  
His hand, his hunger, his axe  
All one, that blood  
Alone will slake.  
My life is severed  
And Death's truth eternal  
No matter how I struggle.

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Blood I knew long ago  
When it filled other forms.  
Even they are gone  
And horror remains.  
I am lord of a barren place  
Where life will never come;  
Only mockery as I seek,  
Only laughter as I hew.

Agony cannot be removed;  
It goes with me as I hunt--  
A cold jewel, an ember  
Nailed to my withered heart.  
Emptiness cannot be erased,  
Nothing can fill the void.