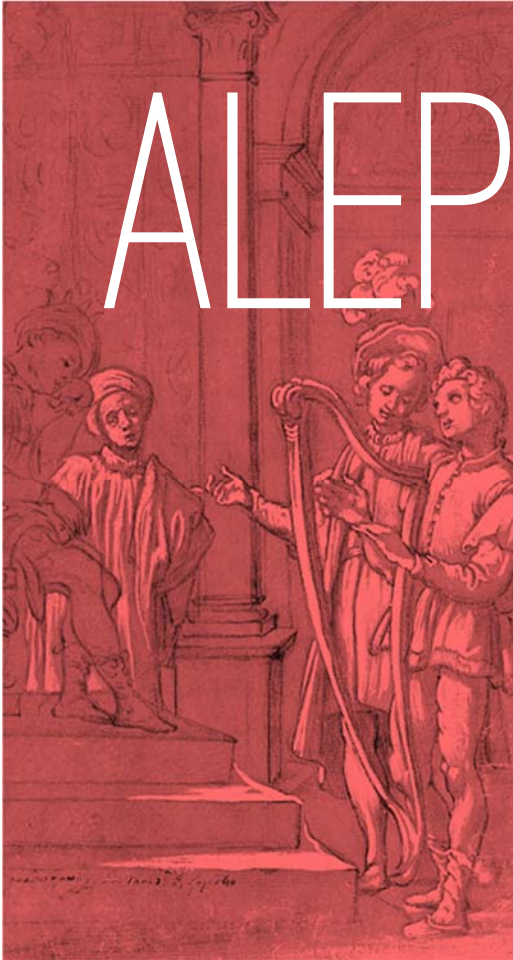


ALEPPO

Here
and
Here

James Attor



“#حلب_تباد_بسكوت_العرب_والعالم”

one of the top trending hashtags on twitter in December 2016.

translation: # aleppo is being destroyed by the silence of arabs and the entire world.

“for most americans, silence is hard to
find these days.”

thomas rogers // salon

“we measure silence by it breaking.”

anonymous

(i)

ALEPPO

See the girl, swollen in her youth:
chem-burned and food-failed, but she swells with breaking truths.
She sits bloated by my bedside;
she runs rancid down my road:
the path that leads back to my friends, my family, my home.
Without thinking, I push her out of my sight.
By not thinking, I bus her into the ground.
For months and years, I saw death coming.
I was distracted!
For months and years, she saw death coming.
Such time, and I did nothing.

(ii)

BOSTON

The world thrashes less here.

Safety means a different thing,
especially for me.

A friend leaves for Kurdistan.

But here, you and I can strongly grab the future.

And injustice must be fought everywhere,
where it slithers and where it marches.

Push with your legs while I push with mine.

(iii)

ALEPPO

RIGHT-NOW
AMERICA

See the girl, swollen in her youth:

food-failed and chem-burned body, but she swells with breaking truths.

Loudly talk to politicians. Calmly talk with the public.

She sits bloated by my bedside;

Listen.

she runs rancid down my road:

Start local. Join groups. Start groups.

the path that leads back to my friends, my family, my home.

Threaten the narratives connecting constituents to officials.

Without thinking, I push her out of my sight.

By not thinking, I bus her into the ground.

March, but also volunteer.

For months and years, I saw death coming.

I was distracted!

Show up not just once, but again and again.

For months and years, she saw death coming.

Make your concerns specific and concrete.

Great effort, even sacrifice, do not ensure change, but

This time, we will not do nothing.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR //

A scientist by training and a host of things by trade,

James Attor writes mostly poetry.



KOMMA SERIES NUMBER NINE

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cover image cropped and recolored from a 1600s drawing depicting the biblical david playing harp before king saul, executed in black chalk and white gouache on green prepared paper by jacopo vignali // in the collection of the los angeles county museum of art // in the public domain // design by zachary bos

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