

**WERE IT NOT SO:  
THE VIETNAM WAR IN VERSE**

**BY  
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In Spring, 1945, Arhimedess Patti like a bird in a breeze floated through South China seas seeking out Viet Minhese few ideas of how to seiz the land from the Vichy sleez allies of the Japanese. he's OSS not CIA, eager to deal, eager to please.

Bands of guerrillas moving with ease the Rising Sun's oppression a disease what ho, it's Ho could bring them to their knees; for it's Ho Chi Minh who'll lead us to a win end the war! end the war! but nooo Ho is a native a savage his head's full of cabbage.

Ho's a Commie-Jefferssonian, upper-class proletarian foe of foreign, imperial man who did rebel and gave them hell and shook the cockles of their shell letting loose a Marxist yell he knew how to ring their bell the future does tell of a market-Marxist plan, oh well.

So new man Truman turned to his friendly Brit man who said the Japs should yield to the French who thereupon sought to defeat Ho who became who, who knew? after Dienbienphu dividing north from south with the free election of Ho to be president of Vietnam in 1956.

Ike the grin to French chagrin wouldn't let the Commie win so before elections could begin he said voting would be a sin and South Vietnam became fixed in and freedom lovers raised a small din penetrating not his craggy skin nor unsettling his chinny-chin-chin.

Eisenhower feared that massive military power tempted prexies' muscles flower leaders not from the corps were to prone to open the door Truman leapt into the fray to the Yalu Mac did

say rue we did hat dreadful day Ike demilitarized our way but left others to play.

JFK, the sages say saved us from Ike's passive way: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask rather what you can do for your country" so we heil! heil! right in the Fuehrer's face; not to heil the Fuehrer is a great disgrace so we fawn democracy's deface.

Kennedy like Karl the Deutschman, "alles ist Transactionating" ve can build a new nation South Vietnam's salvation Maxwell Taylor's peroration Special Forces what creation material spirit exhilaration Phoenix rising final sanction bayous' mist elimination.

Karl the Great said a nation is a community of communication a formulation of such suasion the concept's shallow penetration yielded sighs of exaltation scientific gibberration such elation now we can build a wholly new nation of South Vietnamese speaking Englotion.

Counter insurrection darling will make the Commies mean and snarling boot them to some distant starling costing us a pretty farthing but what a laboratory this will be there are no Cong we'll set hem free all hail these sons of liberty this will suit us to a tee.

What? Ho and Ngo negotiate take Vietnam off Jack's plate that's a fate that we can dodge send in Henry Cabot Lodge set a date communicate assassinate facilitate confusion's reign it's such a pain o navigate in this terrain peacemaking legerdemain.

Blockading Cuba in '61 couldn't be done that's no fun we must fight wars more than one let's bet our dime on two at a time our military threat will be the greatest yet we'll go anywhere stand toe to toe from Zanzibar to Timbuktu we know how to hoe our row.

Jack the good aped MacTeddie keep those gunboats at the ready Castro's goose will be cooked Giancanna and Giankennedy Exnerrate communicate fornicate negotiate assassinate fill

the plate feelings callous fog descends on  
downtown Dallas horror flogs us.

LBJ and JFK differ night from day imperialism's  
not your way domestic policy civil rights help  
reverse ancient blights you reset domestic plans  
Vietnam will cook your goose fit you like a  
hangman's noose Kennedy's claue will make  
you sore calling it Johnson's war.

All remain to escalate prevaricate bomb them  
back to cro-magnate cheer the Gulf of Tonkin  
such a ruse lights the fuse can't you smell the  
dung on your shoes hay hay LBJ how many  
gooks have you killed today escalation of  
escalation, all is escalation.

Bombing will yield a tete-a-tete leading to a  
glorious Tet oh woe can't they read a script that's  
set crumbling into our engulfing net strategic  
bombing sets such cost that makes it clear that all  
is lost Westmoreland says 200,000 or more will  
win the war; sure. . . .

In 1968 you fulminate no more shall we escalate  
no more troops no more war Ah shall not seek  
nor accept reelection as president the Holy Grail  
of my life cannot survive such strife the  
badgering of kids and wife mea culpa rarely,  
never heard vultures your heraldic bird.

Martin Luther King Jr. was ripped from our  
presence depriving us of his essence the very  
evanescence of divine inspiration yielding to  
assassination fostering privation mocking  
deliberation; oh no, Bobby Kennedy? say it can't  
be so.

Negotiations interruptus yields frustration only  
bupkus Nixon's secret plan for peace guaranteed  
Hubert's decease bombing furor did increase all  
those lies Cambodia dies Kent State kids all the  
killing all the lies, oh Cambodia; Cambodia dies.

Protect the village devastate it was it love that  
made you hate it My Lai laid waste to motives  
chaste and left a taste for more of that endless  
war gangrenous sore that drained us to the core

how much more could we endure peace is still  
beyond the door.

McGovern's no contest let your plumbers have  
some rest FBI and CIA have no role in this play  
your dirty tricks will bedevil you and ruin your  
day negotiations will hold sway since '68 more  
delay strum it on a lyre final retreat under fire.

Five presidents fought this war Truman never  
knew what for Eisenhower shut the door to Ho's  
election for sure Kennedy sought imperialism's  
lure manifest destiny and much much more LBJ  
threw himself upon his own skewer Nixon  
dragged us through a noxious sewer.

Three decades long fought we this war stripped  
our souls no honor more our psyches sore for  
purposes ne'er pure Gian Kennedy took us  
through imperialism's door purposelessly  
destroying a generation agent orange inhalation  
soulless devastation.

We carved ourselves a bitter ration all to build a  
phony nation slobbered in self-adulation counter-  
insurrection elation moralizing subordination we  
only came so we might leave no magic hidden in  
our sleeve millions forced to grieve a tragedy to  
perceive.

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