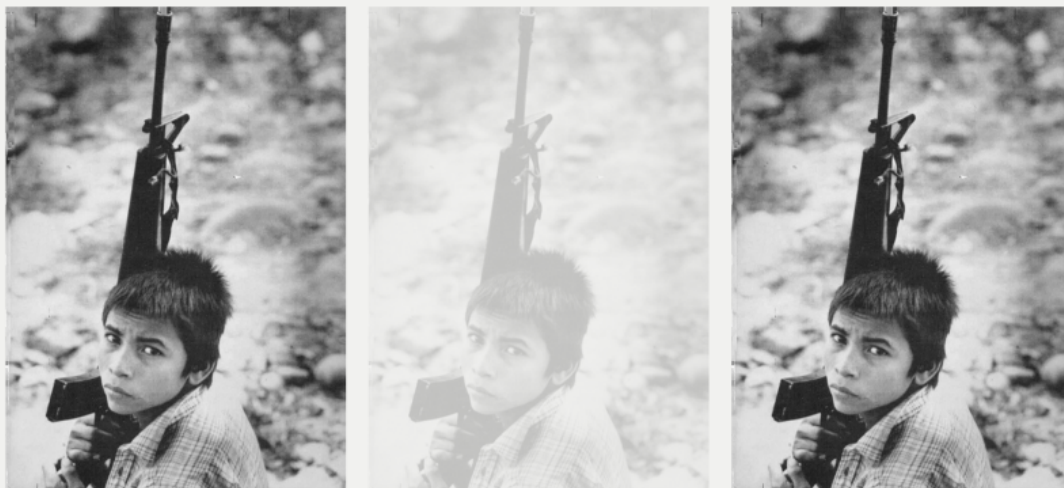


# *Nemesis the Salvadoran*

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

STRUGGLESSESSIONS



**NEMESIS THE SALVADORAN**

Poem by Facundo Rompehuevos

## **Nemesis the Salvadoran**

no one knew his real name but  
he introduced himself as  
nemesis – a common practice  
among the perpetually  
persecuted and undocumented  
and they gave him the nickname  
of la muerte not because of some  
fantastic story of death but only  
because the fucker was so skinny  
he looked like a skeleton

he came from war-torn 1980s el  
salvador never a problem finding  
work never a problem finding  
problems

found himself on a hospital bed  
with so much alcohol poisoning  
doctors were astonished his  
internal organs were able to  
survive pickled and he was  
given a second chance at life  
and so he continues to drink  
but balances it with the  
occasional crystal meth

he is christian without a church  
has a common hate for catholics

and liberation theology and  
proudly upholds violence and  
an incomplete un-marxist  
conception of communism

he abhors his fellow latinos  
especially his compatriotas  
hijos de mierda

but more than anything he hates  
his country will never go back  
refuses all family has no kids  
and he is asked why why he has  
no kids and why hates el  
salvador

he says once upon a time in a far  
off land of new wave and cumbias  
and stonewash jeans and thick un-  
mexican tortillas and bullets and  
dead raped nuns and foolish  
priests who speak of peace and  
demand state soldiers lay down  
their guns and so the priests are  
promptly shot down their bodies  
foolishly carried in funeral  
procession where sniper bullets  
rain down upon the suspecting  
and mourning masses

this is the stuff of movies this is  
the stuff of forever trauma this  
is the stuff of nightmares and  
sorry for the length of the poem

but some things require more words and he is deserving of all the words i in this moment am able to produce and offer onto him like an awkward half-unwanted hug because if left alone this is the stuff of imperialism wining claiming a victim forever

he says around that time state soldiers came to his house based off information a neighbor-snitch gave them that his family were communist guerrillas and so the soldiers tied up his two small cousins and others to the trunk of a tree and gathered the family to witness the stupid and terrible execution of non-communist guerrillas

fuck my country and how do i know these other former state soldiers weren't the ones who fired the shots at my family how do i know they weren't the ones who raped the monjas

he perhaps for the first time in a long time let's down his guard to confess the reason for his sins the reason for his reactionary hate the reason for his slow and

painful suicide and his self-  
punishment he is catholic after  
all he thinks or is made to think  
well this is life this is all there is  
to it death and meth and hospital  
beds but we don't give up on him  
and who is we haven't we been  
here before we is secret no-  
names no-names security culture

we show him there are people still  
that share the care those nuns and  
priests some secret communists  
had but take it a few steps farther  
by saying we don't believe in  
peace and that yes the world is  
violent and ugly but only because  
like those salvadoran state soldiers  
it is ruled by the enemy that knows  
it's sick and dying that sorry but  
you are no nemesis you come from  
a country of farabundo martis of  
feliciano amas of roque daltons  
of comandante marcial of  
communists and though the war  
is over in your country it has yet  
to initiate here and instead of  
fearing it you will be released by  
it and into it freed from the torment  
that has gone nowhere but inside  
you ravaging you eating you from  
the inside out you will be finally  
transformed into something else  
and the thing that was thought to

have killed you will make you  
immortal and liberated free to  
reclaim the violence used against  
you and your family washing  
away your pain in a sea of blood  
and beautiful redemption

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