



NO SHAMEFUL SILENCE

A soldier in Cyprus who loved the Greeks,
Who witnessed torture inflicted by men
Puffed up with patriotic pride that seeks
To feed coarse voices and rejects the pen.
A soldier too scared to speak or to write.
Fear of shameful disgrace kept him silent.
Forty years it took to salute the light,
To write with a Greek the truth and repent.
Today the coarse voices are heard again.
Racist, wounded victims stirred by egos
Wielding charm and power with disguised disdain.
Across the channel, they say, are our foes.
This time there can be no shameful silence.
Hope beyond despair demands no pretence.

Brian Thorne