

PHILIP DERISE

“The sleep of reason breeds monsters.”

Francisco de Goya

THE SECOND COMING

I have selected an except from the poem "The Second Coming," by W.B. Yeats, written in 1919, in the wake of the horrors of the First World War.



THE SECOND COMING

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold,
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world...
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.
Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand...
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

SOURCES

Yeats, W.B. (1920) .

<http://www.potw.org/archive/potw351.html>

Picture of Belgium battle scene, from

<http://www.spiegel.de/fotostrecke/fotostrecke-37026.html>

Quote from Francisco de Goya. Retrieved from:

http://eeweems.com/goya/sleep_of_reason.html