

***A GERMAN REQUIEM***

**By Louis Kasatkin**

Incense-misted eyes  
throats baulked with pride,  
scars reddened by droplets  
a hand wiping spittle  
from the Breviary's page;  
Drought-mouthed elegies  
to ribbons burdened  
by weights of guilt,  
gleaming handle farewells  
accompanied by Bach  
to the warrior hearts  
swollen with longing,  
marking time with  
the limping clock;  
Yearning, yearning  
for visions  
wrought into maps,  
iron-ore mountains  
forged into Tanks  
and nights of gasoline,  
when the Sea  
of Ages parted  
and Schnapps was Wagner  
in our heads.

***APOLOGIA***

Who will remember the Days  
when they are gone?  
who will sail the Sea  
when it is dry?  
what tears shall we shed  
when we can no longer cry?  
who will furl up the flag  
when the war is done?  
who will stand guard  
when the armies are gone?  
who shall tend our grave  
and sweep away the leaves  
of an autumnal season  
long out of step?  
What songs will Nightingales make  
when there's no-one left to hear?  
what pictures will colours make  
when there's no-one to paint  
the scene of old men on  
the park bench by the lake?  
who will remember the days  
when diaries crack with longing  
for missing fingers to turn  
pages that fade and crumble  
for want of eyes to read again  
the names of those things  
unspoken by lips long sealed,  
who then will there be left  
to remember the days?

***BRIEF NOTES ON A SUICIDE FORETOLD***

When you wave goodbye to the World,  
for the last time,  
don't tell them that you'll never be back;  
It only makes the world sad  
to hear such things, makes it feel  
sadder than it already is;  
So when you do wave goodbye,  
goodbye, goodbye, forever and anon,  
don't tell them anything except  
that you're looking forward to some  
time away and having a great time,  
and that you'll write.

**Bio**

Louis is editorial administrator at [www.DestinyPoets.co.uk](http://www.DestinyPoets.co.uk) and founder of Destiny Poets and in his spare time is a civic, community, political activist, blogger and general nuisance to the status quo!