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Ivan Argüelles

## The Denunciation of Literature

imitations forgeries copies plagiarism outright theft  
intellectual property fiction repercussions of sound  
thud drum and bump lodged in the sleeping ear  
inspiration ? sentimentalism conscious depravities  
rock formations drill exercises rain nebulous content  
hills evaporating in ink erroneous footnotes typos  
carbon-copies erasures falsehoods lies orthographic  
misspeak jargon deleted hyphenated preposterous  
exclusions uncorroborated facts data without source  
et cetera replicas of antiquities epics declaimed by  
statues in Greek interface falsified Homeric hendecasyllables  
impostures of poesy rhetorical devices sham indexes  
invented languages vowels that don't fit consonants  
deranged syllabic entries at the wrong end of the line  
chilled mascara of accent and tone diphthongs and glyphs  
notches chiseled in sandstone meaning and noise mixed  
in the fluid content of allusion and metaphor oracular  
homophones solar and lunar digits the entire panoply  
of myth regarded as history gods who only exist by virtue  
of the plagiarists who used them out of context theories  
aesthetics embroidered palimpsests mimeographed  
errata classes dedicated to writing poetry afternoons  
in the lozenge of platonic superstitions teachers without  
experience or degree expounding on the matter of ant-matter  
modernism post-modernism romantic fallacies tragedy  
and comedy staged as meaningful interpretations of the  
human condition metamorphosis and salvation reduced  
to the rightly uttered mantra vedic exceptionalism  
diatribes and stuttering salivating effigies criticism  
at its best a spoonful of acid at its worst the incendiary  
falsification of an idea opinions obsessions counterattacks  
filth and delusion of surrealism the painted word circumflex  
and attitude of breath the end of all scripture *Amen Amen Amen*  
nymph naiad faun satyr Cyclops dryad bacchant *Poet*  
retroflex tongue motion and dialysis silence and petrification  
feelings above all emotions set to music lengths of delta  
sovereign illusory dogmatic the *this* is better than the *that*  
metaphysics grief longing nostalgia for the unknown  
loves that never existed tenderness as escape temptation  
to do better than the preceding one parading hybris before  
deluded audiences applause and ricochet of microphones  
adulation pantograph rewards for sycophancy prizes  
given to the least of minds who best repeat banalities

in the form of sophistic hypnosis and avant garde the very  
beyond of syntax and discourse staring at the zero  
in the middle of the *Omega* beating on and off like a heart  
the pursuit of a single articulation that will resonate  
throughout all eternity O myopic Head ! DEATH

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Iván Argüelles is an innovative Mexican-American poet whose many publications span the decades since 1970. His many books of poetry include “*That*” *Goddess*; *Madonna Septet*; *Comedy, Divine, The*; *FIAT LUX*; *Orphic Cantos*; *Fragments from a Gone World*; and *Twilight Cantos*. He received the 1989 William Carlos Williams Award for *Looking for Mary Lou* and, in 2010 an award from the Before Columbus Foundation for *The Death of Stalin*; he also received a lifetime achievement award from that foundation in 2013. A retired librarian, he has resided in Berkeley, California, since 1978. He is the identical twin of New Age Prophet José Argüelles (d. 2011)