

# obituary unsolicited

*by* strannikov

po-mo parchments piled high deep:  
credentials earnest transcripts earned  
coursework scholarships helpt buy.

doctored eyes positively dart  
their stipened focus haunts their gaze  
and hides deceased men dry 'neath parchèd piles.

these times their bloods both long past spent:  
portentous puddles, provenance unknown  
historicized red of fashioned rust.

the dead out of living ink may've run,  
but men with dripping blood yet stand  
to spit on something—screen or wall or page:

the zealous signs guide no one now,  
their hieroglyphs' agendas mute  
swing dead for flies by red dust roads.

elite effete as all slopes now lead down  
to shallow spring-fed pools of poors  
oblivious to posted droughts—  
their play immune to college cares  
(position, status, tenure, pay).  
constipated souls squat  
but nothing nutritive—philanthropies squat,  
curled piles of hieroglyphic ordure steam:  
upon all spattered ivies' stones  
incontinent messes drip their stains.

upended worlds yield sprays of dust

more like to choke than to infect—  
such wastes of pesticidal glee:  
consideration? cowardice?  
late threats did not arrive with deeds . . .  
look now!—where might those torches march?  
why burn plush theatres? padded classrooms stand!  
texts blaze bright, backhoes shudder into queue.

