WINTERREISE

POEMS BY KLAUS HØECK

Double sonnet cycle

Fluch dem Kapitalismus

Auch deine Fahne gefällt mir nicht mehr, Die altdeuschen Narren verdarben Mir schon in der Burschenschaft die Lust An den schwarzrotgoldnen Farben. *Heine*

CAPUT I

9

Frankfurt, butterfly of glass, concrete, stone to play *terre* with or simply people's homes shaken and rolled out just like dice over the floors of German valleys that cover

strata of jura or cambrium, one huge sandwich, naturally my thoughts run to sausages and searing beer that tests my stomach ulcer, here nevertheless

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it was here that shots were exchanged between the RAF and the police, beneath neon of course and Shell's great scallop shell.

10

Neon of course and Shell's great scallop shell, BP's insignia or Mobil's Pe gasus en route towards his heaven. The following decades' powerful heral

dry. Helmut Schmidt asks the terrorists to stop their acts of madness, and they ask to have eleven prisoners released from jail. The square I'm standing on looks like a pale

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Schwitters, the perspectives that intersect each other, violin wood, the letters, beer halls as they were back in the old days.

Beer halls as they were back in the old days with political undertones. The haz y banks of cloud above Mendelssohn street resemble organ pipes. In the side streets

there is a claire obscure. Man musste die Terroristen im Gefängnis er schiessen. And the one who dares must run the risk of being a dragon then and there.

a a a a a a a a is soon a a a a a a a a is is BP BP BP BP BP BP BP of so oval

Autumn. Consciousness soon starts to border on its own darkness. Advertisements. The car headlamps with their galactic oval.

12

Car headlamps with their galactic oval like explosions of magnesium in the mind. Secret gardens existing in my memory are stroked by light's opal.

0.3% of the population own over 90% of all the stocks and shares and papers, Hoechst, Bayer, Henkel, Thyssen, Salzgitter. There's a large stain on the floor carpet here

is is is is is is is is is shape is is is is is is is is is wallpaper it it it it IIIII for

in my hotel room. Shaped just like the Fehmern. Green and violet wallpaper. I do not know what I have come here for.

I do not know what I have come here for to this waterless place where the last few remains of the Holy Spirit hang skew ered to the power pylons and transfor

mer stations' chromium-plated towers. Cables which divide up space in a di abolical geometry. But no worse that in so many other places.

pain pain pain pain pain's pain pain pain pain's worth worth and and house house of of is is forgetting

It was here Faust entered the world in pain's and midnight's blue-turning house. It is worth remembering or perhaps forgetting.

14

Remembering or perhaps forgetting this city that God has abandoned, it is not easy. When the gods abandon the temple, the demons arrive. That is

the way my friend Christian has expressed it. I have never seen so much abundance nor have I ever seen so many shoe shops, so many savings banks, and so much wast

friend friend friend friend women women women leather leather leather leather and stand and and friend friend friend friend leather atone for

age of leather and plastic and women. And I slowly begin to understand what guilt or punishment I'm to atone for.

What guilt or punishment I'm to atone for is really of little consequence, if the state is always right. For example a leading politician still believes

that the death penalty ought to be re introduced for acts of terrorism, all forms of criticism be suppressed. And up above the Taunus complex the

atone atone atone I I demned as demned right right right right right right urn right right right right right right right right earth

moon gleams pale and transparent, quite somnam bulistic in his urn of white alabaster. I feel myself condemned upon this earth.

16

I feel myself condemned upon this earth, under the chemical daybreak. A sym pathiser only able to reel off business concerns or poems satires a

bout the electrical industry, but scarcely heed surplus value or the gross domestic product. A pallied and pure romantic, who has lost his way on the

demned demned demned garlanded I see see see I I saw saw saw saw saw saw saw saw ther saw saw saw saw saw saw saw saw saw saw

chessboard of fate among the ivy-decked towers and grey equestrian statues, hopelessly in love with a new lost cause.

Hopelessly in love with a new lost cause: the armed struggle in Western Europe. On my way between the main railway station of dreams and everyday reality

whose smoke-filled mirrors blot out the hor izon. Hoesch. Bayer, AEG Telefunken. 70% of Western German production is controlled by 1.5% of the population.

blot out the horizon blot out as veil Idsteinerstrasse's peeling facades everyday everyday everyday everyday

I've ended up at the shunting tracks be hind Idsteinerstrasse's peeling facades. Algol's gleaming through its gossamer veil.

18

Algol's gleaming through its gossamer veil. The black medusa lifts its head above the centre of heavy industry. It's possible that the Evil One's wing grazed

me, brushed across my forehead green with phos phorus from the gleaming crematori a of Kaufhof, Kaufhalle and Kaufpalast. It's possible I bear the Evil One's

and and and the anterior frontal lobe the black plague black plagye the black plague oil and sulphur dioxide and petrol

sign under my anterior frontal lobe. But this city's stricken with a plague of oil, sulphur dioxide and petrol.

Of oil, sulphur dioxide and petrol the Main's coloured, full of faeces and piss. Cranes like lizards with psoriasis. Suddenly though there's through some bright portal

a glimpse of a distant past: a cathe dral rising through pink clouds into the sky, as Friedrich has painted it, rowan berries and leaves that are falling the other way.

you can see this view just before the Ei sener Steg down on the lowest Main quay where Oetker the guerrilla fights and dies

You can see this view just before the Ei sener Steg down on the lowest Main quay while the urban guerrilla fights and dies.

20

While the urban guerrilla fights and dies a new car exhibition, largest size ever, gets underway. There's a new plague of frogs entering the city of hate.

Mehr als eine Million Besucher kamen zur IAA, it says in Frankfurter Rundschau. And people act as if time hadn't almost expired. And now the moon

shines from a canvas of canvas of and that you are that you are that you are that you are the moon the moon is ruby

shines this time from a canvas that is by Carus, among lavender-blue shadows the metropolis sinks like a ruby.

The metropolis sinks like a ruby or is it merely reflections in glass, prestressed polyester and alumin ium that create that illusion? The gas

ometers lie with mighty halos on the floor of the Inferno, with thrones of evil in their brain, the convolutions of which are full of lie's mountings. Ne

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cropolis. Aphaville. Gomorrah. I walk on and on without looking back down to night and fury's sarcophagus.

22

Down to night and fury's sarcophagus, down to the first ring of Hell by the Main which bubbles under the rain pouring down with a colour like dragon's blood. And behind

the sky ovens of Gutleutstrasse the RAF once more open fire, Frankfurter All gemeine writes. But Evil is to be opposed with evil I add on my own

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account. Grafitti on the wall. Financed by Osram. The Chile junta massacred. Frankfurt, butterfly of glass, concrete, stone.

Frankfurt, butterfly of glass, concrete, stone. Neon of course and Shell's great scallop shell. Beer halls as they were back in the old days, Car headlamps with their galactic oval.

I do not know what I have come here for, remembering or perhaps forgetting, what guilt or punishment I'm to atone for. I feel myself condemned upon this earth

hopelessly in love with a new lost cause. Algol's gleaming through its gossamer veil of oil, sulphur dioxide and petrol.

While the urban guerrilla fights and dies the metropolis sinks like a ruby, down to night and fury's sarcophagus.

24

Down to night and fury's sarcophagus I sink through grill bars and through porno clubs, down among enormous stacks of porce lain, among mugs, among greasy layers

of french fries and chickens with angel's wings. Sham versions of towers and reconstructions. Goethe's house made of papier mâché. The only thing that is quite real is a

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puppet theatre stage on the fourth stor ey. Through this which is his mind's projection the metropolis sinks like a ruby.

The metropolis sinks like a ruby or is it perhaps the aeroplanes that are rising just like grasshoppers, the fifth plague, out behind the river in a fine

petroleum smoke, as when I invoke the Evil One, and it comes to me in a sweet smell of leather and methyl al cohol or stares intensely at me from

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everything that is of glass, windows, fa cades, whole as well as splintered mirrors, while the urban guerrilla fights and dies.

26

While the urban guerrilla fights and dies I manage to reach the second ring of Hell, the autostrada that curves before Niederrad in through the hypophysis

of my brain. Where the hell are you all off to at such a speed, with such hassle and all that noise. Volkswagen, Mercedes Benz and Porsche. My head is full of lead and

no no no no no no no no no the are are are are are are are are are they not not not not not not not in

carburettors, fully synchronised gear boxes, full of massacred pheasants, of oil, sulphur dioxide and petrol.

Of oil, sulphur dioxide and petrol the Earth is tired. An stark befahrenen Strassen viel Blei in die Pflanzen, the newspaper writes. Tired of the human

mind that plans devastations on such a extensive scale, that burns off enormous bonfires of waste matter and energy instead of using the mind and the brain

a a a a a a a a a to burning burning burning veil a a a a a through through from

as nourishment for the spirit's flame, to the glory of God, not the sky from which Algol's gleaming through its gossamer veil.

28

Algol's gleaming through its gossamer veil like a fever raging in my dreams. In search of lost spirit, among blue-coloured pharmacies, automobiles, shops, exten

sive cemeteries that are closed for the night. Not pure spirit, but the very es sence of humanity, guarded by four stone cherubs. In pursuit of something of our

blue blue blue blue blue blue blue only un der steel panorama glass perspective is is where where from from from only cause

shared humanity and allness here un der steel panorama, glass perspective hopelessly in love with a new lost cause.

Hopelessly in love with a new lost cause the roots of which I am exploring. Apoca lyptical discharges of volts and e lectric lightning over the U train

network is not all that promising, while I in an infinitude descend and then ascend with steel escalators probing downward towards the roots of Rom

cause cause cause cause cause cause cause cause not cause cause cause cause cause can can can can can from from and and and BP BP BP earth

anticism, down to the carnation root of Evil, if one can call it such. I feel myself condemned upon this earth.

30

I feel myself condemned upon this earth which is red or grey with porous concrete and greased with cheeseburgers and with mayon naise. Even so I find myself being

seduced, just as all luxury seduces. I am almost forgetting what it costs both literally and metaphorical ly. Then I go down to the Goethe house

soldiers the war the war negative house house house house house house house voice police the war police zone

and the silhouetted rocks' negative of a bel-esprit, not forgetting what guilt or punishment I'm to atone for.

What guilt or punishment I'm to atone for it is not for me to decide. I have enough to do as it is keeping my fate as one does keeping one's word. The sun

breaks through the masses of cloud that hang above Moselstrasse and through these al most compulsive thoughts which lie like finegrained patterns of ash after the fire

of the soul: blueprints of houses of where poets were born, horoscopes I would be remembering or perhaps forgetting.

32

Remembering or perhaps forgetting are almost equally difficult or de sirable. The random banner headlines: Dann lasst uns Juden verbrennen. - Bundesre

gierung für Neutronenbomben, under line this fact, Thursday the twenty-seventh of September, anno domini nine teen hundred and seventy-seven, where

chestnuts chestnuts chestnuts fall fall fall in sonnets in sonnet in sonnet in sun in north

autumn throws down the first chestnuts into the Main as well as into these sonnets. I do not know what I have come here for.

I do not know what I have come here for although all of them are here: Goethe on his cement plinth, Schopenhauer tin-pla ted on a plaque, or as a grey bust.

Schumann, Brahms, transitory spirits here in the cloven heart of Europe itself. It is not the past I am in pursuit of (for that is much worse) nor is it

bundesgrenzschutz wanted to kill once more bundesgrenzschutz wanted to kill once more in lamplight in the car headlamps' oval

the future or present but this single moment whenever and wherever in car headlamps with their galactic oval.

34

Car headlamps with their galactic oval are mirrored on the ceiling of my ho tel room: a strange astronomy. Do not speak to me about terrorists or a

bout the RAF while unscrupulous crim inals in the economic and le gal sector go free every single day, while Ferdinandus rides to victory

they're protected by angels and eagles they're protected by angels and eagles they're protected to victory to victory the victory

protected by angels and eagles in reproductions that hang in all of the beer halls as they were back in the old days.

Beer halls as they were back in the old days Dampfkessel, Münchener Eck, Rosa Rouge. I cannot just banish what is Evil from me, or completely suppress it, but

must invoke it to be able to fight against it, creep into its skin so as to vanquish it. It is that danger and that risk which everyone must take so as

they will conquer those who will conquer one day who will definitely conquer one day like Mobil BP and Shell's great scallop shell

to become a human being and not just a coward. Parkcafé am Nizza, neon of course and Shell's great scallop shell.

36

Neon of course and Shell's great scallop shell that causes the full moon to grow even paler above Hauptbahnhof's portal. Burger-King has opened and the whore has

adorned her ovarium with neon signs. The rich man drives home with new profits in the bag. A weekend feeling over the city like a rose of coal, oil and

sweat. When God has not created justice, man will have to create justice instead. Frankfurt, butterfly of glass, concrete, stone.

Frankfurt, butterfly of glass, concrete, stone on your plinth of ebony. Red medal ribbons, in your outstretched wings the night is mirroring itself. The imitation stone

that is glittering with electric ho rizons and merciless glass showcases, where fear and the dark flowers of sex grow. Hundreds of large fortunes control 50%

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of the turnover here. A steel metro polis. A fort of cast iron on its way down to night and fury's sarcophagus.

CAPUT II

41

Stuttgart, caput mortuum, engraving etched in acid and tetrachloride vapours from the chemical moon's lamp that is burning high up above these walls.

The demons derive from our own hearts. This is why we ourselves also die if we should come to kill them. And that is why the only alternative to shipwreck is

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a transformation of our inside. A bove Schillerstrasse the pain that towers up in zinc or steel: massive cloud formations.

42

In zinc or steel: massive cloud formations like the smoke of heretics on the Day of Wrath. Perhaps I have sold my soul way too cheaply, and my body far too ex

pensively. Perhaps there's no longer a ny relation between the spirit's pure effort and matter's fatal result. Baa der and Ensslin and Jan Carl Raspe's vio

lent death only makes the chair of the Ba den Würtemberg justice minister rock. And behind them light that forms radii.

And behind them light that forms radii behind the photographs of those outcasts, those who are hunted that are handed out to me in small cafeterias in

banks and in libraries everywhere in the city, light's x-rays that penetrate the depths of my conscience because a great while ago I have broken taboos

it it it doom doom doom doom doom doom not not not not not ring out only only only not not

in these industrial societies whose doomsday trumpets of gold resound out to all the four corners of the world.

44

Out to all the four corners of the world the flames reach (like a map to which you have set fire, and it carbonises from Mar bach, the realm of the spirit, which only

exists as ashes and letters now) into my mind when I finally see Stammheim prison in natura there in the sha dow and the negation of metaphy

cherry apples already when cherry apples cherry are landing cherry apples already earth

sics, here at the terminus of line five, where the cherry apples are landing in the earth of I do not know which dreams.

In the earth of I do not know which dreams Germany's dark inheritance of beauty and freedom blooms in which blue and nocturn al park hope's solanum dulce mara

is consumed by its own bitterness. I do not know on which transcendent or i maginary new poet's dwelling the pain is just being lit, or on which road

garten Akademie Garten garten garten garten garten garten grow grows its its its its its its and and grows grows

but not here in Akademiegarten at Konrad Adenauer-strasse where anger's malva or wickedness grow.

46

Anger's malva or wickedness grow as well as along the main road and the cemeteries in people's own minds, where it puts down its roots in irrational

rubbish tips with conches and conifers, linguistic detritus and droppings (gilt letters of the alphabet, latrine-col oured metaphors) rococo castles.

pass only only only and and and and ty's we we we we we we we we ar grows grows grows grows glass glass

which far surpass the mirror images of reality of Solitude near Neckar here grows the glass of realities.

Here grows the glass of realities the rough plate of the banks and collecting halls covered with rime along winter's bor ders. I have travelled towards the snow, the

first snow whiter than codeine when it gently falls over alumini um and cast iron, the sutures of the points on the lines and the jubilee column's

who who who who who are raised are raised from are landing are landing are landing in in palace palace stone palace and stone palace

mighty bronze angels, who here from the height of their pedestals can almost gaze down in the vast stone palace of emptiness.

48

In the vast stone palace of emptiness new suicides are being considered and more crimes. Baader, Ensslin and Raspe haben früh kollektiven selbstmord er

wogen, Stuttgarter Zeitung writes between the first and second Sunday in advent, while a sun that resembles bauxite or even more the planet Jupiter is

which which which which be that that that out there Stammheimm the fields and luminates Stammheim Stammheim it illuminates and posthumous

bathed in frost and thorny branches out there across the ploughed fields that lie near Stammheim. I must already have become posthumous.

I must already have become posthumous compared to my poems which whirl in flight like large leaves from plane trees in the light down along Theodor Heuss Strasse. The

room in which I am writing is white with the winter sun that is reflected in the national Berufsamt's windows, white with arsenic and some sort of plastic cur

and transparently gleaming white ll and transparently gleaming white nd and transparently gleaming white

tains. Only when I'm dead as a poet will they live here in my second fatherland, (since I almost feel that I'm at home here).

50

Since I almost feel that I'm at home here on the stones of the Schillerplatz, from where a blue kingdom stretches out to sensi tivity's farthest corners, it's because

it was here that immortality be gan, and here that it will end in christmas markets with their artificial stars and tombolas, from here where a white law was

arent arent arent me completely chalk-white itself as on the stones of the Schillerplatz from where wit as on the stones of the Schillerplatz from where wit

once administered with transparent paragraphs of spirit and of wit here beneath this moon of yellow carbide.

49

Here beneath this moon of yellow carbide at the continental climate's cold centre the budget of the Bundesgrenzschutz rose by 563 mill. D-marks in ten years. Fur

thermore it now consists of 25,000 soldiers. These are cool figures in a cool month. I'm journeying on the edge of december, along the rim of winter and of per

and almost outside christmas and and that christianity means benedictions and that I have no future have no time

dition almost outside christmas and christianity's mild benedictions. I am someone with no future, no past.

52

I am someone with no future, no past because I'm no longer controlled by that dimension, but conversely time is filled up from the inside, from its blue essence.

At this point (like the intersection of diagonals in a square where a bust of Schiller for example could stand) we are connected with eternity. Ex

existence has acquired meaning its ult imate significance there is nothing one is to remember or to forget

istence has aquired its meaning, its ult timate significance. There is simply nothing more to remember or forget.

Nothing more to remember or forget here in your grave, Gudrun Ensslin, who is only disclosed by the inscriptions on the wreaths' red ribbons. Jeanne d'Arc, Jung

frau der Freiheit. I bury the only thing I happen to have on me besides money: a heart of jade to my wife. The wood stands black and frozen as in a

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string quartet by Schumann. And there is no thing elsez that remains except beauty, only reality's naked centre.

54

Only reality's naked centre: this literal grave with the ivy of metaphors growing over the silent ruins. This memorial which never

theless rises up like Birkenkopf a bove the swirling of its silence. The ra dio and TV mast (217m high) is not more eloquent, does not reach any high

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er than this cone of darkness does. Stutt gart, partner for the world is your motto. Stuttgart, caput mortuum, engraving.

Stuttgart, caput mortuum, engraving in zinc or steel: massive cloud formations, and behind them light that forms radii out to all the four corners of the world.

In the earth of I do not know which dreams anger's malva or wickedness grow. Here grows the glass of realities in the vast stone palace of emptiness.

I must already have become posthumous since I almost feel that I'm at home here, here beneath this moon of yellow carbide.

I am someone with no future, no past nothing more to remember or forget, only reality's naked centre.

56

Only reality's naked centre and that is death if you choose real ity and its consequence of ala baster and cast-iron monuments

illuminated by Rigel, which blink violet like electric welding, but also life (as the word implies) or the spirit, which in some way or

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other have conquered matter at Dornhalden Friedhof. For them there is nothing more to remember or forget.

55

Nothing more to remember or forget ah, if only that were the case in Ger many, where Verfassungsschutz now has 1,700 men and more than 13,000 spies in service.

Some few people perhaps believe deep down that it was suicide, but claim that it was murder, while most people believe deep down that it was murder, but claim that it

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was suicide. It is still the same old World of representations. I am someone with no future, no past.

58

I am someone with no future, no past but travel in a certain sense transverse ly through time or in spite of time and interconnect certain univer

ses, join together metaphysical coordinates. I mark out spirit ual routes between the German forests and cities, inscribe a tangible

rose that is full of early snow on what is transcendent graph paper here beneath this moon of yellow carbide.

Here beneath this moon of yellow carbide I spread out an irrational net beneath the sky that has been abandoned by God, and the smoking stars of which are gutted

one by one around ten o'clock by dense cloud from Schwarzwald. A spider's web of mel ancholy stretched out in the heptagon of night. A dark and somewhat cracked emblem

blue blue blue blue blue blue topography blue blue blue blue blue blue blue again one two two two two, two two at home

on the above-named blue topography. There cannot be much time left for me now since I almost feel that I'm at home here.

60

Since I almost feel that I'm at home here on the Planie, it's perhaps because I have German blood in my veins, because I actually love Germany and

only fight it out of love. The Germans who are almost best at everything (in cluding destroying) why don't they use their strength for matters of the spirit and jus

tice instead of industrial concerns and capital, I don't understand it, I must have already become posthumous.

I must have already become posthumous. (Directly translated: final one, or late-born child) in this society that's now experiencing its purgatory.

RAF intensifies the struggle, although violence (the reactionary as well as the revolutionary) is always evil. But what ethic has ever man

that that that that that that from from minds from and and and snow snow snow snow snow stone palace stone palace and stone palace

aged to change the course of World History? December's lighting its candelabra in the vast stone palace of emptiness.

62

In the vast stone palace of emptiness (Das Neue Schloss or Hohe Karlsschule) the corridors echo with bureaucracy and the administration's scratching pencils.

I go down into the garden behind (whose trees are dusted with a fine layer of snow, a fine layer of the Holy Spirit) to exert some kind of counterweight: das bürokrat

this this this this this this this it it is is gardens gardens gardens nature to be | | | | which where glass

ische life is contra naturam. The official life is nature morte: here grows the glass of realities.

Here grows the glass of realities in the Bundeskriminalamt, whose budget has risen from 14 to 143 mill DM. A leap from 813 to 3000 employees. Und das

ist nur ein Anfang, Franz Josef Strauss states to Stern. There the bust of Schiller stands with its head in the Milky Way's frost, a lone among showers of falling stars. Peace

this this this this this this this that there which which which which which what where I falling glass glass the stars are growing

law and order reign supreme on Asperger Strasse, which leads to areas where anger's malva or wickedness grow.

64

Anger's malva or wickedness grow in them, the lovers of likeness, those who seek justice, those who do not believe in in the common decency which those in

German society represent. The 'Die Räuber' of the heart and mind that solely believe in inner freedom or in brotherhood among the rich.

the lawcourts of darkness in earth of dreams lawcourts lawcourts lawcourts anger are lawcourts of darkness and as anger

Those who only have the lawcourts of darkness to turn to, when they are laid in the earth of I do not know which dreams.

In the earth of I do not know which dreams hope and love are now both to put down roots, for here it is frozen and hard (at Dornhalden) and be decked with sprigs of spruce

for the winter, while forest fringes further down towards the Neckar have a colour of ground mace or are darkening to a shade of violet like a wound's edge when

the evil the evil the evil for again again again again gain a the the the the the the the the the the

it starts to congeal. And who will now pre vent the Evil from starting to spread out to all the four corners of the world?

66

Out to all the four corners of the world a dark beauty radiates, in which they do not take part: the good and the wise, the prosperous in this abstract city

which lies like an emerald in snow and with its acrylic facades and with its chrome and peacock-coloured subway trains. A negation a shadow so to speak

start spreading start spreading start spreading ing a nighttime kingdom for fallen angels radiuses radiuses radiuses es

that expands when the circles start spreading. A nighttime kingdom for fallen angels, and behind them light that stands like radii

And behind them light that stands like radii behind the enormous department stores on Königsstrasse gilded by winter. As long as the Evil is visible

it must be fought, otherwise not. Or it gets mistaken for its opposite. Every fourth top official was for example a Nazi during the Second World War. Forget

winter solstice is the Christmas festival over the blue kermis of the Schillerplätze in zink or steel cloud formations

it. Winter solstice, the Christmas festival. And above the blue kermis of the Schillerplatz in zink or steel: cloud formations.

68

In zink or steel: cloud formations like a fairytale kingdom, a Uto pia of wind and weather, blueness and the sun which is crossed by silver caravelles

and ghostly silhouettes. It is possible to deny dogmas, but memories cannot be denied. Not six million people. For that reason the Germans

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ought to be the first to stop dancing around the Golden Calf and do penance. Stuttgart, caput mortuum, engraving. Stuttgart, caput mortuum, engraving by Albrecht Dürer. Perhaps the city that can just be glimpsed in the background of the etching: Ritter, Tod und Teufel. Emblem of

the German nation, probably capable of everything and which has produced the highest and the lowest, and is therefore called to the last, which is also the

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most dangerous. Where is he riding, the silent knight. To his perdition. Is it only reality's naked centre?

69