

Poetry and Tyranny

Poets know that words
may change to swords
at the tip of a pen, how prearranged
ideas can become rearranged
so easily, and then, perhaps,
will simply stand aside as impudence
transforms itself into imprudence.

The only other people I
can think of—somewhat select—
who achieve a similar effect
are the tyrants. Consider
for a moment, if you will,
the way Pinochet took Chile
and made it Chill; or how Francisco
Franco found the pain in Spain—
not caring if it fell on plain or hill—
and the British who managed,
as if they had a conscious plan,
to rouse the Ire from Ireland.

Steve Bloom
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