

1936,

It was the time stamp of dark descent,

Into a spiral of uncertainty,

Of a world hurdling toward chaos.

The downward pitch was cheered by many,

Recognized by some, but understood by only the very few.

They were the unseen, by station in life or by the depth of many cuts,

Who peered through the fearful clouds of ignorance

And privilege that encased the minds of the many.

Many signals were sent,

Few received,

And even fewer sent back.

The unseen had become the unheard.

The signs were abundant, embedded in the radiocasts,

And in newsprint, magazines, and weekend movie reels,

Interspersed with black and white among color features of the day.

The signs could become signals,

If cloudy vision could focus into a mission.

Generations passed before signals became symbols.

In 1936, Ole King George died,

And one-eighth of a king,
Edward the Eighth, a secret Nazi sympathizer,
Ascended to the throne of England,
While half of the world in bondage
Wondered why there were still kings.

Hitler then promptly marched his troops into the hinterland,
Into the Rhineland,
Into direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles.
And militarized Germany's border with France.
France and England did nothing!

With scars so deep
And fears so wide,
From the War to end all wars,
Factions of Allied and American leadership
Acquiesced into hopeful naivete,
While still others embraced the rising populist vitriol.

Then taking a cue from Hitler,
Late to the European party,
And having no colonies of his own,

Mussolini sent his troops into the Horn of Africa
With visions of a modern, resurgent Rome.
Ethiopians, Eritreans, and Somalians fought back.

A militaristic coup of the Government of Japan failed.
Supporters were rounded up and executed.
Emperor Hirohito then sanctioned incursions into Manchuria,
Presaging a full-fledged war with China,
While further absorbing the Korean Peninsula.

Distrust, suspicions, and hatred abounded.

With ample guns and no international opposition,
General Franco's fascists, with control of the army,
Attacked the popularly elected, left-leaning Government of Spain
To which the Soviet Union took exception
But lent little if any support.

As Hitler initiated his secret plans for war,
Nazi propaganda putrefied the Olympic Games.

Next, beset with total economic failure, Stalin became absorbed

In the consolidation of power through The Great Terror.
The lists were being compiled, even by those,
Who, unbeknownst, were themselves on the list!
It would be just a short time
Before both the hammer and the sickle would be dropped.

The League of Nations, a pipe dream to many,
Finally failed beyond any principle,
Having created no fact to confound Axis domination.
Now before The Holocaust,
Extending beyond the pogroms of Jews,
War against populations became the pathway to victory.
Limited warfare was finally unlimited!

And with that, the vision of the Super-Weapon was launched.....

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