

Gray Legions

The old women awake angry
in different languages
at leaders who are the same.

Morning chores are done silently,
but thoughts churn,
resolving in the minds of the women.

Producers of workers and warriors;
that was their value, then.
They know they are eminently expendable now.

Their sons and daughters, grandsons and grand-daughters
are equally expendable, but do not know it,
following the smoke and mirrors.

But old women have heard the words before
from old men who stand on the burdened backs of others,
while spouting platitudes of pride and patriotism.

Old women are not deceived
by drum beats and parades, by bread and circuses.
Old women see beyond facades and hear the unspoken.

So they sweep the floor, wash the dishes,
and plan to harness the anger
that will right all the wrongs