

Günter Grass warns in the Süddeutsche Zeitung of a war against Iran. In his poem with the title „What has to be said“ the noble laureate in literature demands, Israel shouldn't get the German submarines which have the capability to launch nuclear weapons.

What has to be said

Why am I silent, silent for too long,
what is obvious and was practiced in
simulation games, at the end as survivors
we at most will be footnotes.

It is the asserted right for a preemptive strike
that could extinguish the Iranian people
steered to organized jubilation, enslaved
by a braggart, since in its realm of power
the creation of an atomic bomb is suspected.

But why do I deny myself
to name the other country by its name,
a country in which many years by now –although kept silent –
a growing nuclear potential is available,
but beyond control, since not accessible for inspection?

The general concealment of this fact,
to which my silence is subordinating itself,
feels to me like a burdening lie
and coercion, holding out punishment
as soon as it is ignored;
the verdict „antisemitism“ is well known.

But now, since from my land
that over and over again is caught up and confronted
with its very own crimes
that are without comparison,
but in turn businesslike, although with swift lip
declared as *Wiedergutmachung*
will soon deliver another submarine to Israel,
whose specialty consists in its ability to steer
all annihilating warheads to where the existence
of not one single atom bomb is even proven,
but as fearful apprehension wants to be evidence,
I say, what has to be said.

But why was I silent for so long?
Since I thought, my provenance
that is tainted with a stain that can never be erased
forbids to turn this fact into articulated truth,
since I cannot expect the country Israel, I feel tied to
and want to remain so, to put up with it.

Why do I only say it now,
aged and with my last ink.
Does the nuclear power of Israel
endanger the already delicate world peace?
Since what already tomorrow could be too late,
has to be said today;
but also since we –as Germans burdened enough--
could turn into suppliers for a new crime
that is foreseeable, why our partial guilt
couldn't be blotted out by any of
the usual excuses.

And I have to admit, I am silent no more,
because I am tired of the hypocrisy of the West,
as it is to be hoped many will unshackle themselves from silence,
call on the causal agent of this discernible danger
to abandon the use of force,
likewise demanding an unhindered and permanent control
of Israel's atomic potential
and the Iranian nuclear plants
by an international authority
admitted by both countries.

Only in this way Israelis and Palestinians,
more so, all people that live in this
region occupied by delusion,
close to each other and at enmity,
and finally also all of us can be helped.