

Despottery 2025

Kim Devouring Korea's Children

Marshall "Red" Dawn, U.S. Army, Retired

What creature so corrupted can excel
the abomination of them who also consumed the soul of a nation
in a gluttony of vanity?

What septic soul can
consign the children of the people
for mercenary pay and profit
to a vile war not his nation's own?

a tumefied, grotesquely featured,
vague human caricature
taking delight in dispatching
his nation's innocent and guiltless
to slaughter
and extirpation can;

That kind of reptilian
careless of civilization
garbed in purloined garments of perverted power can;

a chain-smoking sack of guts,
remorseless in self-adoration can;

because he can.



*A parodic rendering inspired by Spanish artist Francisco Goya's painting *Saturn Devouring His Son* (circa 1820–1823), which is thought to reflect the artist's revulsion of the Iberian wars against Napoleon he had experienced together with the then-ongoing state terrorism against Spanish citizens associated with the Spanish Inquisition. A depiction of the original can be found online at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saturn_Devouring_His_Son. (AI image by Gerardo Mena, Army University Press)