

Meat Maker



Skinless carcasses amid woolen flock; slaughtered
In the Muslim way; hot copper knife carves a
Sluggish duck-blind to a stop and
Then breathless world in
Stop-frame! Moments
On mobile-bunkers shook
In atom-breaking sight and sound;
Smells and everything rush US when life and
Loss share places we cry and hurl and blaspheme

At the wrong time?

—Maj. Stephen Douglas Pomper, U.S. Army
Baghdad, 20 January 2007