

right

*"we must strive to build a culture of life"*

*George W Bush*

a one thousand pound Tomahawk Cruise missile  
slices the sky above the Persian Gulf

scales the blue hypnotic sea  
into the ancient spread of desert  
tilting over the soft rises of the land  
a blur of steel

bears down in forty-four minutes on Baghdad  
as it sleeps  
on the snaky tail of the Tigris

glides into the city like an owl  
quiet and secretive  
till it sears through the walls  
of Zubaida's house  
she in her room  
her child in her womb  
his thumb in his mouth  
all quiet and tucked up  
in amniotic safety