

## **Dragon's Tidbit**

*Agent Orange and its Cancers*

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Danger lurks in my darkest dreams  
Dragon lingers through decades of Ill-intent ...  
presence of indifference ... lying in wait, slumbering ...  
one eye slit-a-peeking.

Ignored by the big Agent Orange,  
Til now, wondering why all these years many as Brothers were not;  
and watched impotently as they were sniped down with fini-diseases,  
chemical hell ... or scorched by radiation whom Sol Itself spared the guilty.

Then ... just because ...

Dragon falls from dark clouds, swoops in search of  
the ignorant one who thinks he might skate by, ignored by  
His soon to be best-dragon-bud who snaps wings and rides a mighty convex  
away;  
ravaged morsel wedged between feted-talons, clutched neatly for the  
nestlings.

Clacking jaws of Chemo and Radiation nukes await—  
Bombs away ... the nothing-left soul, sucked to dry hulk—  
veteran's translucent skin, blue veins dancing o're arthritic bones;  
tendons fossil-tough as a third-rail ... bones, and organs too slowly cancer-  
dissolved ...  
tumors surfing its bloody wake.

Down for the count ... *not exactly* ...  
AO no longer ignored ...  
there are ways and veteran backups  
to join your fight.

I won't give in— and am  
Not yet a rattling-throat in the night.