

We Are Here

Government overthrown,
No work,
No bread or oil or sugar in the shop.
Water is rationed,
Darkness presides over daylight,
School no longer educates our children.
We must escape,
Escape death,
Seek life.

Fear and sweat and terror
(Violence)
Leaving home when darkness falls
We walk and ache and walk still
 the unknown.
Taken onto a truck and dropped at the border.

We arrive at a place more tormenting than our own,
Rotted flesh,
And waste,
Where are we?
Who are we?
They ask.
No papers, no names,

We wait.

We wait here another five years,
Have more children with no
School to go to.
Given flour, sugar and oil,
Enough to keep from dying.

I think of family left behind,
Landscape hot and dusty.
Deeply lined, weather beaten faces
Peer at us from under cloaks.

Alone with my dreams,
My fears,
Alone again when we are summoned to the UNHCR
(United Nations High Commission for Refugees)
Still nowhere to take us all.

We are leaving this reviled place where people die
Without a name,
Without a home.

We are going to find Freedom,
We are.
Freedom will erase our memories of fear
drought
hunger
death.
Freedom will save us.

Where do we arrive?

Another alien place
Stranger than the first,
Barbed wire surrounds us
Opening, closing of doors,
Women crying, children screaming
Guards call numbers out
The clanging of keys

We must escape from here
But how,
It is harder

No one knows we're here.

Mary Chydiriotis