

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Candles in Babylon

Denise Levertov · Thursday, June 23rd, 2011

Through the midnight streets of Babylon  
between the steel towers of their arsenals,  
between the torture castles with no windows,  
we race by barefoot, holding tight  
our candles, trying to shield  
the shivering flames, crying  
“Sleepers Awake!”  
hoping  
the rhyme’s promise was true,  
that we may return  
from this place of terror  
home to a calm dawn and  
the work we had just begun.

*Reprinted with permission from **Transforming Terror: Remembering the Soul of the World**, edited by Karin Lofthus Carrington and Susan Griffin, a collection of writings offering a new paradigm for moving the world beyond violence being the first, and often only, response to violence. The associated [website](#) will grow as a resource in coming years; the book may be purchased [here](#).*

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