NOTRE DAME: SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

Gone in a puff of smoke... the Heart-Poem-Jewel Notre Dame Over a thousand years of History! My tears flow... the Seine and Paris In mourning cannot extinguish the flames

Groans of agony drown the crowd... The whole world... awakens aghast At the tortured, massacred Lady of Miracles

Within, a giant Cross Lights Mary's face... present here and there By the Rose windows... Happy Easter

The Great and Small of the Universe Declaim flaming rhymes and rhythms Leaving at Point Zero Only a ... vigorous / ailing Word... Hope

Vows to see the Spire reborn Crowning Notre Dame rebuilt Silent Prayers and Meditation coil Luminosity and Beauty restored

We will not all be there... But We will put the finishing touches To the flight... to revive Beauty and Spirituality

Gorged with relics... the Gallic cock Fallen from the sky... is found again... Its wings beating... Miracle beyond belief History will return to its youth

Hédi Bouraoui Université York, Toronto Le 16 avril 2019

Translated by Elizabeth Sabiston