

WHEN EVIL-DOING COMES LIKE FALLING RAIN



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.

When Evil-Doing Comes like Falling Rain
By Bertolt Brecht

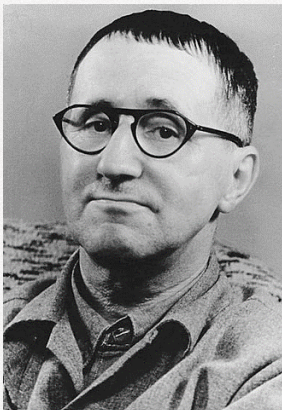
Like one who brings an important
letter to the counter after
office hours: the counter is already closed.
Like one who seeks to warn the
city of an impending flood,
but speaks another language. They do not understand him.
Like a beggar who knocks for the
fifth time at the door where he has four times been given
something: the fifth time he is hungry.
Like one whose blood flows from
a wound and who awaits
the doctor: his blood goes on flowing.

So do we come forward and report that evil has been done us.

The first time it was reported that our friends were being
butchered there was a cry of horror. Then a hundred
were butchered. But when a thousand were butchered
and there was no end to the butchery, a blanket of
silence spread.

When evil-doing comes like falling rain, nobody calls out
“stop!”

When crimes begin to pile up they become invisible. When
sufferings become unendurable the cries are no longer
heard. The cries, too, fall like rain in summer.



ABOUT THE POET

Bertolt Brecht was born on February 10, 1898, in Augsburg, Germany. He served as an orderly in World War I and after, while studying medicine at Munich University, he was introduced to drama. He became a prolific playwright and poet. He was forced to flee Nazi Germany for his Communist beliefs in 1933, first to Scandinavia and then to the United States. He was investigated by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in September 1947 and returned to Europe, eventually settling in East Berlin and established his own theatre troupe, the Berliner Ensemble, one of the most respected in the world at the time.