

# APRIL SHOWERS AND TEARS (POEM)

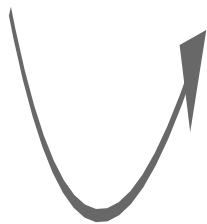
*Posted on April 16, 2010 by Keghart*



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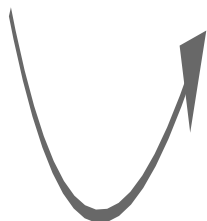
By Alan Whitehorn, Kingston ON, April 2010



### **Showers and Tears**

April is spring time,  
a season of rain and renewal,  
but also a time of countless tears.  
Three major genocides of the twentieth century  
have their sad anniversaries in April.

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The Rwandan genocide memorial day is April 7.  
It is the day of the first mass killings of Tutsis.  
The slaughter rapidly took place in 1994  
after the president's plane was shot down by deadly missiles.  
100 days of brutal deaths by machette followed.  
The Holocaust is symbolically remembered  
with the Hebrew date of the Warsaw Uprising in 1943.  
This year it falls on April 11.  
The gas chambers and crematoria are silent now,

but so many innocents perished in the horrific frenzy.

The Armenian genocide ceremonies take place on April 24.  
This is the date in 1915  
when hundreds of priests, intellectuals and community leaders  
were arrested en masse in Constantinople.  
It was the prelude to the death marches of so many of their kin.

These people were all targeted for death  
because of their ethnic membership.

As Daniel Goldhagen warns:

"It is worse than war".

It is the most insidious kind of hatred  
and perverse desire to destroy.

The genocidal sequence  
involves increasingly malevolent deeds.  
The essence of these terrible actions  
can be found in powerful, profoundly troubling verbs.

### **The Verbs of Genocide**

Categorized  
Stereotyped  
Stigmatised  
Marginalized  
Disenfranchised.  
Deprived  
Victimized  
Robbed  
Ghettoised  
Deported.  
Stripped  
Raped  
Tortured  
Murdered.  
Mutilated  
Dismembered  
Discarded  
Denied.  
Forgotten?

No!  
Remembered.

