

Name _____

The Day the Cloud Reigns

by Michael R. Burch

The sky was clear on Hiroshima, 6
sealing her fate. 9
The report of the weather plane, 15
neither early nor late 19
was certainly plain. 22

The few innocuous clouds did not refrain 29
from abandoning the city. 33
Only the silence, monstrous in its complicity, 40
regarding man's error 43
acknowledging the horror. 46

Only the small, astonished victims 51
understood the immaculate heavens: 55
the inconceivable light 58
igniting their bones; 61
the Cloud, all if a sudden, 67
billowing unbidden, 69
and then the apocalyptic rain 74
descending again and again. 78

So that where white chrysanthemums 83
had once whispered with bemused tongues 89
instantly only ashen ruins remained 94
the day the Cloud reigned. 99

Date	First Read	Second Read	Third Read