

Spring 1986

For the Bones of Josef Mengele, Disinterred June 1985

Robert Bringhurst

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Bringhurst, Robert (1986) "For the Bones of Josef Mengele, Disinterred June 1985," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 26 , Article 21.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss26/21>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

*For the Bones of Josef Mengele,
Disinterred June 1985*

Master of Auschwitz, angel of death,
murderer, deep in Brazil they are breaking
your bones — or somebody's bones: my
bones, your bones, his bones, whose
bones does not matter. Deep in Brazil they are breaking
bones like loaves of old bread. The angel
of death is not drowning but eating.

Speak! they are saying. *Speak! speak!*
If you don't speak we will open and read you!
Something you too might have said in your time.
Are these bones guilty? they say. And the bones
are already talking. The bones, with guns
to their heads, are already saying, *Yes!*
Yes! It is true, we are guilty!

Butcher, baker, lampshade and candlestick
maker: yes, it is true. But the bones? The bones,
earth, metals, teeth, the body?
These are not guilty. The minds of the dead
are not to be found in the bones of the dead.
The minds of the dead are not anywhere to be found,
outside the minds of the living.