

*My copy*

NEW DAWN

Preface to an edition of Hiroshima, by John Hersey )

1. Explosion: Sequence and Simultaneity

Greenwich Time	_____	August 5	1945
New York Time	_____	" "	"
Chicago Time	_____	" "	"
San Francisco Time	_____	" "	"
Pearl Harbor Time	_____	" "	"
Tinian Island Time	_____	" 6	"
Hiroshima Time	<u>8:16 A.M.</u>	" "	"

2. Goodbye to Tinian

Now that all "unauthorized items" are cleared from the bomber, including  
 The optimistic irrelevance of six packs of condoms,  
 Of condoms, and three pair of  
 Pink silk panties. Now that  
 The closed briefing session of midnight  
 Is over -- with no information from Tibbets on the secret,  
 Obsessive question of every crewman, what  
 Is the cargo. From Tibbets only  
 That it is "very powerful." Now that  
 The crew, at the end of the briefing,  
 Have taken what comfort they can from the prayer  
 Of their handsome Chaplain, a man's man of  
 Rich baritone: "Almighty Father,  
 Who will hear the prayer of them that love Thee,  
 We pray Thee to be with those  
 Who brave the heights  
 Of Thy heaven..."

(SPACE)

And now that

Around the bomber the klieg lights  
Murdering darkness, the flash-bulbs, the barking  
Of cameramen, the anonymous faces preparing to be famous,  
The nag of reporters, the handshakes, the jokes,  
The manly embraces,  
The new<sup>MS</sup>  
From weather scouts out that clouds hovering over  
The doomed world will, at dawn,  
Probably clear, And

Now down to brass tacks, Lewis,  
The flawless co-pilot,  
Addresses the crew: "... Just don't  
Screw it up. Let's do this really great!"

But the crew does not yet  
Know what they must do really great

That is to come.

### 3. Take-Off: Tinian Island

Colonel Tibbets, co-pilot beside him,  
Lays hand to controls of the plane, which he  
Has named for his mother, "Eola Gay."

Pocketed secretly in Tibbets' survival vest,  
Under the pale green coveralls, is  
The metal container of twelve capsules of cyanide.  
These for distribution to command if facing capture.

Though a heavy calibre side-arm to mouth, would do.

The tow-jeep strains at the leash. Wheels,  
Under the weight of 165,000 pounds,

( NO SPACE)

Overweight 15,000, crunch

Off the apron, bound for the runway. Position taken.

"This is Dimples Eighty-two to  
North Tinian Tower. Ready for  
Take-off instructions."

So that is her name now. At least in code. Dimples.

"Tower to Dimple<sup>s</sup> Eighty-two. Clear  
To taxi. Take off on Runway A, for Able."

At 2:45 A.M. August 6, Timian Time,

Tibbets to Lewis:

Let's go!"

She roars down the runway, flicking past  
The avenue of fire-trucks, ambulances, but even  
At speed-roar, at speed-build, yet earth-bound, overload  
The last gamble, and runway  
Now spilling furiously toward  
The black sea-embrace.

But who would have found it hard to trust Tibbets?

But even Lewis cries out. Grabs at controls. Tibbets,  
Gaze fixed, Hears nothing. Time  
Seems to die. But  
Iron hands, iron nerves, tighten at last, and  
The control is drawn authoritatively back. The carriage  
Rises to show  
The air-slick belly where death sleeps.

This at cliff-verge.

(SPACE)

Below, white, skeletal hands of foam

Grope up. Strain up.

Are empty.

#### 4. Mystic Name

Crewmen secretly, wordlessly, still guess at the name  
Of the cargo. Security forbids discussion. How few  
Know the mystic name! No crewmen,  
Of course.

Three miles north-northwest to Iwo Jima, where,  
In case of defect developing in "Eola Gay,"  
Tibbets will land, transfer cargo to  
The waiting stand-by plane, and  
Take over. If not necessary,  
No landing, but he will rendezvous  
With weather scout planes and the two B29's  
To fly with him as observers.

An hour short of Iwo Jima, code lingo  
To Tinian Tower: "Judge going to work" --  
Innocently to announce the arming  
Of the bomb. The bomb,  
Inert as a near fifteen-foot length of tree trunk, lies  
In its dark covert.

It is

So quiet, so gentle, as it rocks  
In its dark cradle, in namelessness. But some

(NO SPACE)

Name it "The Beast," some,  
With what irony, "Little Boy." Meanwhile,  
It sleeps, strapped in its cradle,  
With its secret name and nature.

Like the dumb length of tree-trunk, but literally  
A great rifle barrel packed with uranium,  
Two sections, one large forward, one small in rear, the two  
Divided by a "tamper" of neutron-resistant alloy.  
All harmless until, backed by vulgar explosive, the small becomes  
The "atomic bullet" to crash through to  
The large mass  
To wake it from its timeless drowse. And that  
Will be that. Whatever  
That may be.

#### 5 When?

When can that be known? When,  
By the delicate and scrupulous fingers of "Judge,"

1. Plugs, identified by the color green,  
Are installed in waiting sockets;
2. Rear plate is removed;
3. Armor plate removed;
4. Breech wrench frees breech plug;
5. Breech plug placed on rubber mat;
6. Explosive charge inserted, four units, red ends to breech;
7. Breech plug reinserted, tightened home;
8. Firing line connected;
9. Armor plate reinstalled;

(NO SPACE)

10. Rear plate reinstalled;
11. Tools removed;
- 12: Catwalk secured.

In that dark cramp of tunnel, the precise  
Little flashlight beam  
Finicks, fastidious, over all.

Soft feet withdraw.

Later, 6:30 A.M., Japanese Time, last lap to target, green plugs  
On the log, with loving care, quietly as a thief, will be  
Replaced by plugs marked lethally red.  
Lethally red.

#### 6. Iwo Jima

Over Iwo Jima, the moon, now westering, sinks in faint shimmer  
Of horizon clouds. Then,  
The heart-breaking incandescence of tropic dawn,  
In which "Eola Gay" loiters for contact  
With weather scouts and the two B29's  
Which rise to attend her, observers.

Weather reports good from spotters.

Three options: Nagasaki, Kokura, Hiroshima:

But message of one spotter:

"Advise bombing primary" -- i.e. Hiroshima.

Already preferred by Tibbets.

(SPACE)

At 7:31 A.M.. Japanese Time, the All Clear  
Signal sounds in Hiroshima.

### 7. Self and Non-Self

Tibbets looks down, sees  
The slow, gray, coiling comfort of clouds, which are,  
Beyond words, the image  
Of sleep just as consciousness goes. He looks up, sees  
Stars still glare white into  
All the purity of emptiness. For an instant,  
He shuts his eyes.

Shut your eyes  
Your eyes, and in timelessness you are  
Alone with yourself. You are  
Not certain of identity.  
Has that Non-Self lived forever?

Tibbets jerks his eyes open. There  
Is the world.

### 8. Dawn

Full dawn comes. Movement begins  
In the city below. People  
May even copulate. Pray. Eat. The sun  
Offers its circular flame, incomparable,  
Worship-worthy.

### 9. Only A Dream

Speed 250 miles per hour, altitude  
31,060 feet, 50 miles to  
Target control point of Aioi Bridge. On time, On  
Calculation. Polaroid glasses,  
Against brilliance of expected explosion,  
Ordered on. Color

(No Space)

Of the world changes, It  
Changes like a dream.

### 10. New Dawn

What clouds remain magically part,  
And there visible, sprawling, supine, unfended,, the city  
Breathless as though in expectation, the city offers itself.

Crossed hairs of bomb-sight approach  
Aioi Bridge. As specified, On time  
For the target. Farebee, bombardier, presses  
Forehead to the cushion of bomb-sight,  
Says, "I've got it."

The bomb is activated,  
Self-controlled for the six-mile earthward  
Plunge, and at that instant, the plane,  
Diverted of that burden, leaps upward,  
As though in joy, and the bomb  
Reaches the optimum distance above ground, 1890  
Feet, an altitude determined  
By the bomb's own delicate brain.

There,  
The apocalyptic blaze of  
New dawn

Bursts.

Temperature at heart of fire-ball:

50,000,000 degrees centigrade.

Hiroshima Time: 8:16 A.M., August 6, 1945.

(SPACE)

NEW DAWN

( Preface to Hiroshima, by John Hersey )

1. Explosion: Sequence and Simultaneity

Greenwich Time	<u>                    </u>	August	5	1945
New York Time	<u>                    </u>	"	"	"
Chicago Time	<u>                    </u>	"	"	"
San Francisco Time	<u>                    </u>	"	"	"
Pearl Harbor Time	<u>                    </u>	"	"	"
Tinian Island Time	<u>                    </u>	"	6	"
Hiroshima Time	<u>8:16 A.M.</u>	"	"	"

see *Curtain*

25% COTTON FIBRE  
BEPPITSHIRE  
USA  
BOND  
CORRIGIBLE  
BATON'S