

from
Αγαμέμνων
(Agamemnon)
by
Andrew Ordover

Agamemnon, the king of Mycenae, has returned home after 10 years fighting the Trojan War. Here, he tried to explain to his wife what the experience of war has done to him.

Agamemnon:

A year ago
A year before the end
The Trojans took to cutting off
The heads of those they killed
They kept them up on pikes
And threw them down on us
Whenever we approached
The faces of our friends
Like bombs upon us
Raining down
The dead eyes staring
Blue tongues slapping rubber cheeks
A year ago
And every day since then

The things
You cannot know
Unwordable but
Necessary
Things
I had to do
To conquer such a will
To smash that wall and

Win

Loving men
You understand
All decent men
To do those things
And worse
And worse

I'm not the man you knew

Andrew Ordover is
an author and educator
living in Tucson,
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been produced in New
York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Phoenix,
and Miami. Andrew was for several
years the Artistic Director and
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York's Common Ground Stage and
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