

## The Messenger

---


Manuscript 2261

---

# Fire and Reign

Michael Almasian

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger>

 Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

## Fire and Reign

How ironic it is  
that the rain  
falling on the roof  
sounds just like  
a fire  
of small kindling wood  
crackling, popping, burning

Is it not strange  
that two exact opposites  
voice themselves  
to an outsider's ear  
with such similitude

Are we so close  
that minute variations  
appear as opposites  
Michelangelo's marble is smooth  
to the touch  
but  
under microscope  
it is craggy and coarse

Could someone not human  
discern the difference between  
male and female  
east and west  
and  
right and wrong

To what degree  
does an eagle  
resemble a bear  
to, say, a bulldog  
or a rising sun

One needn't look  
at methods  
one needs only  
eyes closed  
to hear the rhetoric

*Michael Varoujan Almasian*