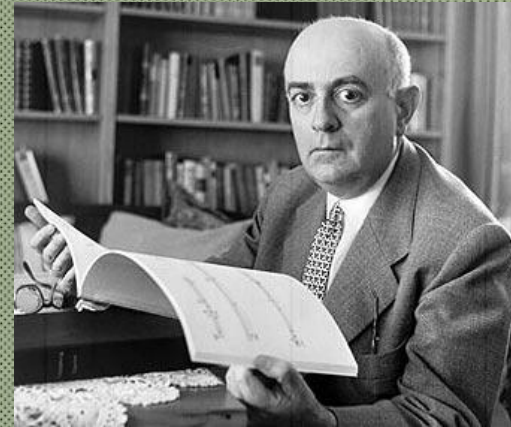


TRANSLATION AS SOCIO-POLITICAL COMMENTARY: HEANEY AND HISTORY

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CAN HISTORY BE EXPERIENCED IN LITERATURE?



W.H. AUDEN & SEAMUS HEANEY

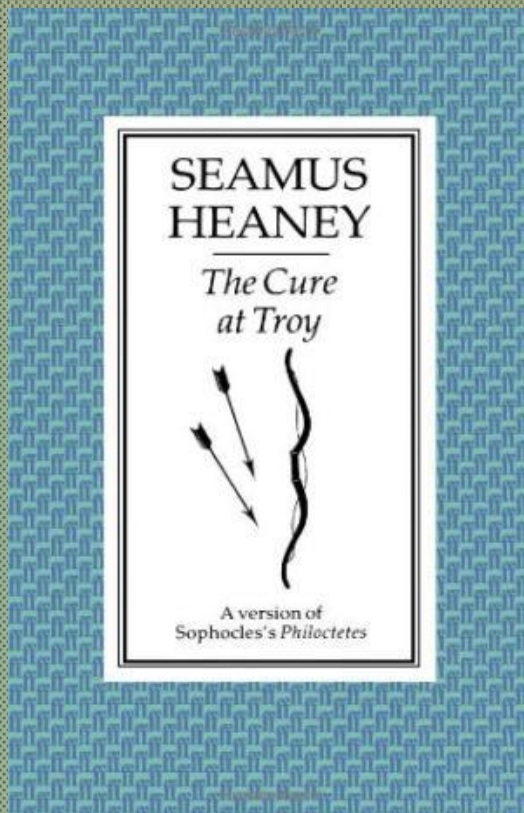
“No lyric has ever stopped a tank”



The form of the poem, in other words, is crucial to poetry's power to do the thing which always is and always will be to poetry's credit: the power to persuade **that vulnerable part of our consciousness of its rightness in spite of the evidence of wrongness all around it**, the power to remind us that we are hunters and gatherers of values, that **our very solitudes and distresses are creditable**, in so far as they, too, are **an earnest of our veritable human being**.

Crediting Poetry (1995) – The Nobel Lecture

FROM SOPHOCLES TO HEANEY



ORIGINAL – PRIMARY?

TRANSLATION – SECONDARY?

HEANEY AND TRANSLATION

“History says, don’t hope
On this side of the grave.
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed-for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.”

Seamus Heaney, *The Cure at Troy* (1991)