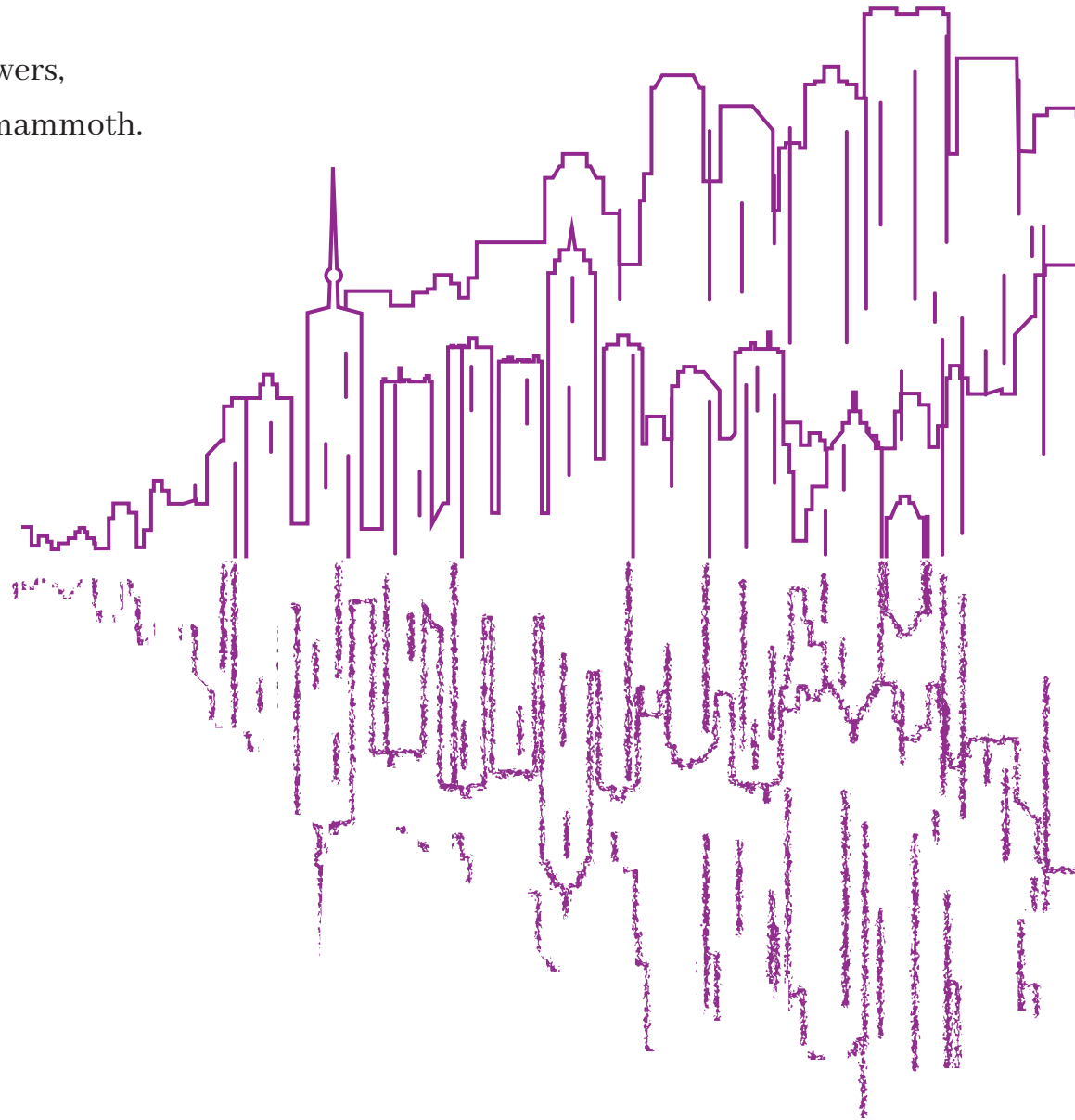




Hiroshima: Night-watch

Vasanthi Vasudev

Red lights twinkle
In mirth and frolic;
Sky scrapers invade
Into misty heavens;
Wave after wave
Rise man made towers,
Both minute and mammoth.




Hiroshima at night
Stands serene and silent..
Her wounds embalmed
Her agonies healed.

Today, order sits in penance
On the precipice
Of yesterday's nuclear chaos
With a prayer on trembling lips.

Hiroshima spurns
With a rare dare
Man's bestial shame
And rises fresh and fragrant....

Like the sun
That dances with `Phoenix' trees
Defying science with patience
Hushing cries with care....

Even as the pristine sea
Kisses away her tears,
Holding her head high
In REBORN pride
Hiroshima at night waits...



She waits for KANNON
The merciful Goddess of Peace
To enshrine herself on
Our beloved Earth!

O' Humankind!

O' Tomorrow!

Fail not yourselves

Fail not dear Hiroshima,

Deny her not her miracle,

Her miracle so sparkling

So splendid, so sweet!

Verses
BY VASANTHI