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A Valediction: Forbidding Dread

Why anguish
over

 what
 cannot be
averted:

war,
 disease,
environmental
 degradation?

I bid farewell
 to Existential
Dread—

negation
and
despair—

to join
 instead

the community
of light,

bring
 an affirming
 flame

towards
encroaching
darkness.

(inspired by W.H. Auden's "September 1, 1939")