

Rocks of Resistance

vehicles scale mountain heights zigzag through expansive gorges through valleys
that witnessed slaughter
youthful screams muffled by overpowering rock formations century aged boulders
precariously perched resisted invasion
now sleek tourist buses heave up narrow roads welcomed by local tavern hotel
and hostel owners winter invasion
souvenir grocery shops sell honey cheeses hiliopites¹ bunches of wild thyme
mountain tea
we reach Plateia Kalavryta a warming morning penetrated by chilled echoes of
history we sit under a giant plane tree order refreshments at Coffee Republic
watch a toddler chase a ball in front of Cathedral steps
one clock tower shows the time as 14.34
the hands have not moved since December 13th 1943²
below the ski slopes of Mount Aroania the holocaust museum weeps
turtle doves chorus reverence

Loula S. Rodopoulos

¹ gruel/pap

² Holy Cathedral of the Assumption of Virgin Mary where the clock stopped at 14.34 on December 13th 1943 when the Nazis invaded and murdered an entire population of men; imprisoned women and girls in the schoolyard setting the town alight including the Cathedral where the priest was killed.

Loula S. Rodopoulos. 'Rocks of Resistance'.
Transnational Literature Vol. 4 no. 1, November 2011.
<http://fhrc.flinders.edu.au/transnational/home.html>