

## *North Korea Threatens to End Talks, Test Missile*

*The Washington Post, Aug. 10, 1999*

ACE BOGGESS

Westerners point fingers;  
Japanese wave their arms.

In the North, men raise fists so high  
they can punch a hole through God.

Warriors go about their preparations,  
seek heroes near launch pads,

control rooms, challenging the limits  
of the sky. Nostradamus wrote

of The Oriental flying, looking down,  
striking with his staff. The North

descends into its own prophecies: talk  
of a next war along the Korean peninsula.

Their Northern missile waits for  
a test or testy reaction to hard stands.

It readies to unlearn itself in rapt  
explosion like Icarus at point of clarity,

success. Its great wax wings will melt:  
a silver tear above the Sea of Japan.