The Third of May, 1808, At Madrid: The Shootings On Principe Pio Mountain, Oil on Canvas, 1814

“...it is not easy to retain the instantaneous and transitory design that issues from the imagination.” — Francisco De Goya Y Lucientes

When they come for you, Cossack-capped, in lockstep, carrying the black eye of death against their shoulders, how will you react? Bending low, earthwards, hands interlaced in supplication, eyes pleading for mercy from the uniforms striding towards you, or brandishing a fist, jaw clenched, resolute with bright inflections of hatred? With your face deep in your hands, blinded, telling yourself this can’t be happening, no, my life was not meant to end like this, or hiding behind someone, anyone, hoping that somehow you’re missed, that they run out of ammo, that your neighbor will take the bullet meant for you and you’ll escape? Or will you fling out your arms like a father receiving his son home from traveling abroad, elated to know an end to all journeying?