ENGWRT 1501: Topics in Creative Writing – Bearing Witness to Trauma

First Assignment, 1000-1500 words, after reading Lamentations.

Write a lamentation in response to some traumatic incident you've encountered in your reading. It might be as far away in time as the fall of the first temple or as recent as the murder of George Floyd. The event should not be named, but you should address it obliquely, as if you were speaking to someone who was intimately familiar with it. Your lamentation should replicate the rhetorical/emotional structure of Lamentations, including

 a. A complaint directed at God (or some all-powerful addressee)

 b. An admission of guilt and acceptance of punishment

 c. An expression of faith. This suffering will come to an end, your station will be restored, and your enemies laid low.