

0. WHAT WOULD BOBBY SAY? - Story Preface

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**12. WHAT WOULD BOBBY SAY?**

As various individuals tried to examine whether evidence led to Sirhan, as Kennedy's killer, or to someone else, they encountered roadblocks.

- The official records, for example, were sealed for twenty years - something which had not occurred in the JFK and King assassinations.
- Scott Enyart's pictures of the assassination-in-progress were never returned and are now, apparently, lost.
- More than 2,000 photographs (asserted to be duplicates by the LA Police Department) were burned.
- Many of the taped witness interviews were destroyed.
- And ... while at least some type of independent federal investigation had looked into the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King, nothing along those lines occurred in the matter of Robert Kennedy.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers agreed on at least one thing during Sirhan's trial: He remembered absolutely nothing about the shooting and was not faking his total lack of recall. That fact has always caused critics to wonder whether Sirhan had been hypnotized before his actions at the Ambassador Hotel.

Then there is the matter of bullets. How many were actually fired?

- Sirhan's gun contained eight.
- Four shots were fired at the Senator; five other people were injured.
- One of the others was struck by two bullets.
- The FBI, in its compilation of evidence, circled two bullet holes in a nearby door frame. The LA Police Department claimed those markings had been caused by kitchen carts - then destroyed the door frames because they didn't fit into a file folder.

Did Sirhan fire the fatal bullet? Is the evidence against him clear and convincing? Should an independent investigation be conducted to fairly, and objectively, assess what happened? Or should the jury's verdict against Sirhan - based on the evidence which was presented to them - be the final word? Would Bobby - a department of justice official who once brokered a secret deal allowing two opposing countries to save face - think an independent investigation was needed?

And what of today's political climate? Were Bobby still alive, he would likely look to Aeschylus - poet-warrior, survivor of the battle of Marathon - to make sense of life inside - and outside - his own country. One can almost

hear him say these words in a speech about American politics:

*There is no hope nor future  
For a land  
Whose mind is split  
Into two, and where each half  
Strives only to destroy the other.  
Give Athens a single mind, a whole mind,  
As a marriage  
Gives to two strangers  
One child.*

(*Oresteia*, Ted Hughes translation, page 191)

And ... one can almost hear him say *these* words in a speech about international relations:

*But the time of brute force  
Is past.  
The day of reasoned persuasion,  
With its long vision  
With its mercy, its forgiveness,  
Has arrived.  
The word hurled in anger shall be caught  
In a net of gentle words,  
Words of quiet strength.  
The angry mouth shall be given a full hearing.  
I understand your fury.  
But the vendetta cannot end,  
The bloody weapon cannot be set aside  
Till all understand it.*

(*Oresteia*, Ted Hughes translation, page 185)

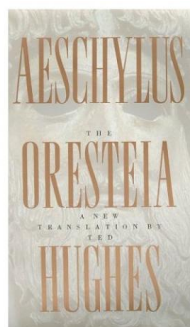
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHAT-WOULD-BOBBY-SAY-Bobby-Kennedy>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHAT-WOULD-BOBBY-SAY-Bobby-Kennedy>

## Media Stream

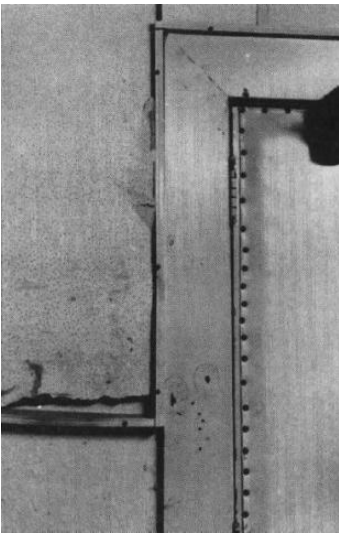


[Aeschylus Oresteia - A New Translation by Ted Hughes](#)

Image online, courtesy Macmillan and Google Books.

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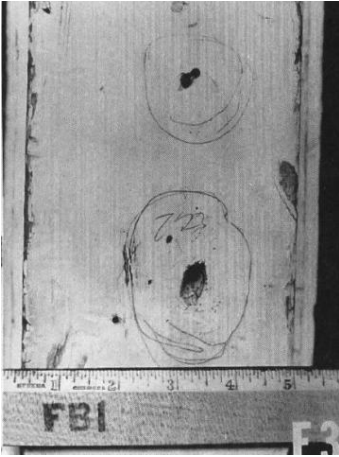


### Bullet Holes in the Door Frame

Image online, courtesy the U.S. FBI.

PD

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### Exploded View of the Bullet Holes

Image online, courtesy the U.S. FBI.

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### Inspecting the Door Frame at the Assassination Scene

Image online, courtesy AP photo.

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### Jury Members at Sirhan Trial

Image online, courtesy LA Public Library Visual Collection.

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