

POETRY

we are here

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"Barred" by Shelby Thames

we are here.

the works submitted for the competition
should not violate the legislation of the rf

i wonder

what does it mean

is it possible in this case to write

such words in a poem as

ruscist

fascist

murderers

rapists

foreign agents

political prisoners

acts of solidarity

gesture of goodwill

negative surfacing

etc., etc.?

in theory, on one hand

such words

do not violate the legislation of the rf

cf. art. 29

rf constitution

par. 1-5

freedom of thought and speech

is guaranteed to everyone

and also

freedom of the media

is guaranteed

editorship is prohibited

on the other hand

can they consider this

as an insult

to the feelings of religious

sexual minorities

white cisgender men

and russians
can they consider this
as an outrage
against russians
and the russian language, incl.?

they can and even will
so it is probably
better not to take risks
and boldly back
down by showing miracles
of inhuman cowardice
inimitable quietness
and incredible shyness
then, perhaps
the poem
will certainly pass
all higher authorities
and you will be awarded the highest award
of thirty pieces of silver
and
one silk tie
made to order
just for your neck

repeat:
we are here.