In the year 399 B.C. Athens reached what the physiologists call its climateric.

By the year 399 B.C. Athens reached its climateric. Youth and vigour had long since gone. Its mature life was wasted in a long war which lasted twenty-seven years

We are in Athens. The year is 399 B.C. A climacteric. The tail-end of a fruitful, vigorous, turbulent life, the start of another ~~quieter more unfertile~~, quieter, unfertile more contemplative existence. A long war which lasted for twenty-seven years sapped her strength. It was followed by total defeat and an ignominious peace. Foreign domination, local tyranny and revolution followed in quick succession. ~~All these~~ Athens left ~~her~~ stunned ~~punch-drunk~~, ~~and~~ weak ~~at the~~ in the knees, ~~Her ci~~ uncertain. Her citizens were anxious and resentful. The social climate was raw. ~~in which fear, strife, persecution and festering hatreds grew and proliferated.~~ The former certainties, ~~the~~ the easy-going optimism, ~~the~~ and tolerance ~~of the~~ were gone. Instead fear, ~~factional~~ intestinal strife, convulsive quarrelings, persecutions and festering hatreds reigned and proliferated.

These are, of course, classed as evils. They are, ~~though~~ in some way, ~~the instinctive defences which society whenever human society suffers some kind of disaster or becomes utterly frightened and unsure of itself~~. They are ~~defe~~ instinctive defence complexes which human society ~~throws projects around it~~ throws up whenever it suffers some disaster or becomes frightened and unsure of itself. ~~It seeks to regain strength and heal~~ So it turns, ~~so to speak~~, on itself. It ~~seeks to regain strength and mobility th~~ becomes coursions of its weak constitution it very bones and ~~tries to regain strength and health the~~ knowing no specific remedy — there are no incontestable cures — punishes itself and seeks to regain strength and health by self-flagellation or primitive, unchloroformed amputation — terror or proscription and slaughter. Self-distrust and sadic harshness go hand in hand

In Athens the tyranny had been overthrown. The butcherings were over. Guilty and innocent suffered. But these were ~~no tranquility. The people~~ blind eruptions which left the people far from tranquil. They still searched

Βιβλιοθήκη Πανεπιστήμιου Κύπρου