Rocks of Resistance

vehicles scale mountain heights  zigzag through expansive gorges  through valleys
that witnessed slaughter

youthful screams muffled by overpowering rock formations  century aged boulders
precariously perched  resisted invasion

now sleek tourist buses heave up narrow roads  welcomed by local tavern  hotel
and hostel owners  winter invasion
souvenir  grocery shops  sell honey  cheeses  hiliopites\(^\ddagger\) bunches of wild thyme
mountain tea

we reach Plateia Kalavryta  a warming morning  penetrated by chilled echoes of
history  we sit under a giant plane tree  order refreshments at Coffee Republic

watch a toddler chase a ball in front of Cathedral steps

one clock tower shows the time as 14.34

the hands have not moved since December 13\(^{\text{th}}\) 1943\(^\ddagger\)

below the ski slopes of Mount Aroania  the holocaust museum weeps
turtle doves chorus reverence

Loula S. Rodopoulos

\(^\ddagger\) gruel/pap
\(^\ddagger\) Holy Cathedral of the Assumption of Virgin Mary where the clock stopped at 14.34 on December 13\(^{\text{th}}\) 1943 when the Nazis invaded and murdered an entire population of men; imprisoned women and girls
in the schoolyard setting the town alight including the Cathedral where the priest was killed.

Loula S. Rodopoulos. ‘Rocks of Resistance’.  
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