

## Hitler's Bunker

*31 August 2022*

Americans closing in, after ravaging  
much of Italy, I wonder, did any  
ask, "What have we done?  
What rubble becomes our heritage?"  
If any living would know themselves,  
I counsel reflection upon these years  
when fascists strove to make Rome stick for all.  
But now the rubble (no more storied columns,  
monuments of power believed), becomes a doom.  
Destruction has a new allure, the fasces  
christen every room, and man no longer  
wills to be alone. It is the total will  
that governs even "freedom-loving" people. Where is safe?  
There are still mountains, true, but mankind  
cannot thrive outside the law, and in our time  
the law abuses some for fun.  
This must be known if we still  
wish to be made human. Both hard sides  
of contradiction must be grasped and known.  
We need the law. The law abuses.  
If there be an easy answer, I don't know it.  
This I know: some govern well, but others  
move within the doom of Hitler's bunker,  
where all hope is lost, the only option death.  
Be not like them, consumed by hate,  
nor hating them, for then hate wins,  
but neither drown in naive love, for man  
loves dominance most, for reasons unknown,  
and this will never change. Carve out  
a home away from man's cold quest  
and rule it well. This is called happiness.  
One wonders that the Hitlers could not find it  
seeking total domination from the bunkers of the world.