

# Animus and Vitriol

*by Gary Hardaway*

## **A World's End**

The goon squads assemble  
to crack the skulls of dissent  
along the urban coasts.

Vengeful men and stupid women  
organize rescindment of the past  
85 years of civil and social progress-

not one man, but the enablement  
of many intent on doing harm  
to opponents they style as enemies.

## **Transmutation Sonnet**

At some point, we will have to shoot them  
through the eyes and skull and heart,  
these reactionary thugs the electoral college  
has allowed into the hallowed chambers of the state.  
Yes, violence will be required.

Point blank violence with stupid instruments  
we oppose at most intersections of time  
and circumstance. Circumstance requires

abandonment of ordinary principles  
in the service of larger principles.  
Civilization can't await a peaceful resolution.  
Action now, before the moment of opportunity

escapes and history rewrites itself  
in the hands of monsters best dead and dismembered.

### **Coal Miners' Children**

Dumbfuck West Virginia-  
you are irrelevant to the men  
who own this country.  
Whether coal or oil or gas,  
you have no future.

None of the fossil fuel elites  
care anything about you.  
They will move their money to  
wherever it grows, fungus-like,  
the most. You are fucked.

### **What I Expect**

More anxiety. More sadness. More anger.  
More fear. I live at the ugly edge  
between ability and debility.

The powers that be would cut  
the meager income I worked for  
and contributed to for years

in order to resolve their true constituents  
desire for more at the expense of those  
they style "entitled". Entitled to what?

The ridicule of Republicans bought  
by the more entitled, the capable,  
watching their returns on investment?

The masters of finance and business  
administration target me and my cohorts.  
We have no power but our vote

and our votes are challenged by  
legislation paid for by our enemies.  
We cling to the soul crushing,

menial jobs we have to supplement  
the income we earned when we were  
young enough and valued enough to matter.

### **Times Square Offerings**

Raise the corpse of the orange one high,  
by the heels, to the top of where the ball  
falls on New Year's Eve and let the bits  
and pieces tumble, as it rots, as mementos  
for the scrambling figures on the street  
to be auctioned at market value by Sotheby's.

### **A Liberal's Confession**

The truth is, I want to crack some skulls.  
My disrespectful opposition  
chides me for my lapse  
in liberal tolerance. Fuck my opposition.  
I'd happily crack their skulls

along with Trump's and those  
of every Republican office holder  
in America, state or Federal.  
I have no empathy for American  
conservatives. I want them dead.

