

# American Triptych

*by Gary Hardaway*

## **The First Asshole**

He asserted his dominance,  
raised his sharpened stick,  
and growled others of the tribe  
into glum acquiescence. His  
descendants, brandishing  
variations of the stick and growl,  
have exercised dominion ever since.

## **They Invented the Guillotine as a Humane Way to Execute**

It's always fun and easy  
to punish the poor

for everybody hates them  
especially themselves.

It's harmless sport  
like shooting

sparrows and grackles  
with a pellet gun

as they land in trees  
inside your fenced back yard

as the new pubic hair  
begins to tickle your balls.

## **Let the Shit Get Real**

For the love of guns,  
surely they would love

to swallow point blank barrels  
and their lead ejaculates-

an ecstatic  
martyrdumb

in the marketplace  
of right through might.

