take shape in classical times. Against all odds the ancient Greeks stood up to the Oriental despotism of the Persians, and at the sea battle of Salamis turned back the Persian hordes, thereby preventing Western civilization from being strangled in its cradle. For centuries Europeans resisted the onslaught of the Muslim world—a struggle that continued until as late as the seventeenth century, when the Turks stormed the gates of Vienna. And it can be argued that this particular struggle may be renewed and intensified in the twenty-first century, if Iranian-style Muslim fundamentalism renews its assault. Happily, meantime, the West has overcome one set of Huns and Vandals within, the communist totalitarians. Now the great challenge is the salvation and renewal of American civilization that has been crippled by another set of Huns and Vandals, who directly attack all the teachings of the Christian West and strive to undermine its moral heritage.

To regain the old American civilization, or at least as much of it as possible, is the great challenge facing those who believe American civilization must be saved and restored as an arm of the historic civilization of Christendom. It is a challenge that demands a total commitment on the part of those who recognize the nihilism of the New Age as the mortal enemy of everything decent and moral.

On Holding the Death Mask of Keats

Burden of earth has stopped the breath; has turned
the luminous eyes to night; set lips in stone.
This is death's parable. Yet something burns
across the years and will not be undone.

No light discovers hieroglyph of pain
now on this ivory mask, this sculptured peace;
yet anguish drew harsh lines here once, and stain
of fever flagged time's swift inveterate pace.

And still frail flesh wove nets to snare a star,
Art's alchemy transmuted grief to gold;
beat jeweled crowns for unborn pauper years,
and bought with blood what never could be sold,—

Till tidal music washes on our shores,
submerging temporal rocks of grief and blood—
"Beauty is Truth."
We hear, and are restored.
Cover the face. Remember where we stood.

—Louise Dauner