



POETRY

Edward Robert Raupp

On Mourning the Loss of Democracy

O Milton! Loose the bands that bind my dreams.
Forbid me not to speak or write in verse
Or prose of powered men who stem the streams
Of inspiration by their means of force.

You castigated kings and those who wrote
The laws intended to impose their truth
On all the populace without a vote.
You would not tolerate their lack of ruth.

You fought in *Areopagitica*
On freedom's side against the enemy
Allied with that great man of Ithaca
Against pretenders to the prelacy.

O Milton! Help us to dispel the lies
Of predatory wolves in lambs' disguise.