## **Global Destruction Trains**

Trains of death Laden with riches of mammon Ever so carefully, With every precaution, With failsafe behind technical failsafe, With improvements and rules and mechanical safeguards And two-person crews with cameras and protocols and gadgets and brains... Trains ever so safe Will break a bearing Lose a wheel Roll blindly over broken tracks...

And dangle on a hundred-year-old bridge...

Or worse,

Will flip and catch, and rip, and erupt in percussive red-orange balls of fire

And fill the air with toxic black soot

And send residents running

And call together firefighters and emergency personnel

Who can only stand by and watch,

and keep those who are not already burnt to a crisp

away from all-consuming flames;

Firefighters and emergency personnel

Who with the rest of us, can only scratch their heads and wonder...

How all this could be the price we pay

For an economy of short gain

And a foreshadowing of the greater payments

That the world of our children is sure to make

When fossil fuels are no more.

Roger Straw April 25, 2015