

## The Wreckers

I watched them tearing a building down,  
A gang of men in a busy town.  
With a ho-heave-ho and lusty yell,  
They swung a beam and a sidewall fell.

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,  
As the men you'd hire if you had to build?"  
He gave me a laugh and said, "No indeed!  
Just common labor is all I need.

I can easily wreck in a day or two  
What builders have taken a year to do."  
And I tho't to myself as I went my way,  
Which of these two roles have I tried to play?

Am I a builder who works with care,  
Measuring life by the rule and square?  
Am I shaping my deeds by a well-made plan,  
Patiently doing the best I can?

Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,  
Content with the labor of tearing down?

— Carmelo Benvenega (1913-1989)