

Reaching Through the Shadow

By James W. Rhodes © June 17, 2011

For New York, Pennsylvania

And Washington D.C

For a shadow cast around the world

By dust, steel and debris

For those who went down fighting, and

For those who had no choice

I will hold them in my memory.

Recall it with my voice!

In shadow of the death and doubt

I will not bow to fear

I will use the shadow as my guide

Assurance true and clear

The sun will set and rise again!

My wounded heart will heal

I will reach through and find courage in

The shadow of the steel.

The shadow is the day's tribute

A silent sign, the sun's salute

As dawn and twilight never cease

In shadow there is peace...

At night awake—alone with aching

Sorrow and despair

Dark emptiness, uncertainty

From loss beyond repair

Stretched by threats of foes unknown

And guardians unseen

Victory or surrender

Vague pathways lie between.

With glow of day—clouds burn away

My course no longer blind

New light with shadow's clarity

Revealing to my mind

My eyes adjust--new hope and trust

Reward for reaching through

Proof that fright and clouds and night

Are passing shadows too

Welcome boldness of the day!

Welcome shadow. Welcome shade.

Through memories both harsh and sweet

With confidence, I reach. I reach.