

**NOTES TOWARD THANKSGIVING,
U.S.A., An Essay**

If the long shadows of humankind forever
cast on Earth, what of that?

And what did wisdom mean before the
word, wisdom, was, before words were?

Pre-historic hands on stone: African to
Eastern North American, on down the line to
the Taconic range / New England / these
Berkshire Hills / stones placed around
aboriginal fires, and first women of the light
sitting at cave's mouth, their voicings. . .

“civilization”

Evolution / DNA / resolution of bones out of
wind and dirt of ages, ancestral articulation.
. .

“civilization”

Daniel Boone: *I have never been lost, but I
will admit to being confused for several
weeks.*

Thomas Paine: *We have it in our power to
begin the world over again.*

1ST Drunk: *Revolution! Toot if by land, won if by sea. Keep your fronds close and your anemones closer.*

2nd Drunk: *Revolution and taverns! And if joy deepens, mate, look out — utopia may be gainin' on ye!*

Every sky yearns to be its own bird, a freedom flying within itself, as every ideal wants to be embodied.

John Adams: *I always consider the settlement of America with reverence and wonder. . . .*

Benjamin Franklin: *The people heard it, and approved the doctrine, and immediately practiced the contrary.*

John Adams later: *Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself. There was never a democracy that did not commit suicide.*

John Adams near the end of his life wrote to **Jefferson** about the new Republic: *The experiment has failed.*

I hear America ~~singing, drinking,~~ drugging.
I see America ~~rising,~~ sinking and. . . .

Get it straight: in a World made of worlds, the country I love and inhabit may not be the

country you love and inhabit, though we
stand the same ground.

And if the long shadows of humankind
forever cast on Earth, it is not that we hope
so, not that we don't.