

Hollow Cost

Burl Levine

during the Holocaust,
millions of innocent people
suffered from a caustic calamity
in an era when the word *mankind*
became a contradiction in terms

so let us remember
that if we ever forget
this epically evil episode,
then the price of every sacrifice
will always be regarded
merely as a hollow cost
resonating with agnostic indifference
rather than as a hallowed cost
reverberating with rabbinical reverence