

## Floods

Hundreds of millions for the Red Cross,  
tens of billions for FEMA,  
so many were careful  
to carve out their share.  
I got something too:  
a one-way ticket  
to anywhere, and so  
find myself homeless now  
in two cities.

Mardi Gras 2006 had been scheduled  
to celebrate "the power of nature."  
After the storm that theme was changed  
by those responsible for such things to  
"signs and superstitions."  
One-third the usual number  
did try their best.

Perhaps you don't know  
that In Sri Lanka fishing villages  
that were swept away by the tsunami  
are not being rebuilt.  
In the name of safety they  
have been moved inland.  
New luxury resorts are rising  
to take their place along the coast.

Our theme for today is not  
"the power of nature."  
This has been changed,  
by those responsible for such things  
to: "the nature of power."

Still I believe that one day  
the world will learn how much is lost  
every time dollar signs  
and official superstitions  
come to displace human beings.  
And then (I expect) we will all, finally,  
be allowed to find our way home.

Steve Bloom  
March 2006