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## Disclaimer

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# Disclaimer

by Frank De Canio

I want to leave this world before my time;  
before the mocking maladies of age  
and self-inflicted ravages of rage  
become the rumored consequences of crime,  
in which I'd squandered precious years of prime.  
I want to die upon life's bustling stage  
as though too soon upended in a musty cage  
that duly functions as some scoundrel's wage.  
I want to die before the smoky slime  
that plagued men slither through, implies that I'm  
to blame. Distress won't pluck my bearded sage  
or wrack my brain, confounding who I am.  
I'll stop the dealings of this crooked game  
that makes me butt of random wrath and shame;  
before, too agonized to give a damn,  
I add hate's sore contagion to my lot  
and make it seem God's justice that I rot.