

Promise Unfulfilled

a crushed tender stem
heedless footstep's wee victim
no flower will bloom

a torn, crumpled page
in trash can's growing clutter
no tale will be told

a promise broken
trust destroyed forevermore
no friendship survives

a vaccine delayed
covid virus scores again
no days left to live

a nation wounded
its golden age fades to rust
no republic kept?*



* Reference: Benjamin Franklin's rejoinder to a questioner following the 1787 constitutional convention who asked, "What have we got? A republic or a monarchy?" His reply: "A republic, if you can keep it."