

What is madness

Says the poet*

But nobility of soul

At odds with circumstance

It is madness to be oppressed

It is madness to weigh

Everything against being oppressed

It is madness to weigh

All that is precious

All that was hard earned

All that is harder loved

All that is yours

As a wager against tyranny

With long long odds against you

Long odds

Against you

Would you cast the die

With your children in balance

Your home

Your life

In balance

All far more likely to be lost

Would you cast the die

With the nobility of your being

Surely to be destroyed

Instead of enduring

The nobility of your soul

Putrefying

Under tyranny

Would the madness

Of hope

Against hope

Be enough

To drive you to the madness

To sign

Your death warrant

Your declaration

Of independence from madness

—Dominic G. Kollasch

*Theodore Roethke, "In A Dark Time"

For the 250th Anniversary of The Signing
of The Declaration of Independence