

Give the Devil Benefit of Law

Words: Gary McGath, Copyright 2013

Music: "Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes"

Written following the events in and around Boston, April 2013

After the villain's found and caught, there's something we must hold true:
Horrible as his deeds may be, it's justice that is due.
It's for our sake, not from weak will, we must not cross the line.
For if we let our anger rule, the loss is yours and mine.

Stories are easy, truth and facts are often hard to find.
Judgment can falter, haste may rule when feelings cloud the mind.
To wrap things up, say all is done, is what we want today,
But if the answers are too neat, the guilty get away.

"Break the rules once; we know we're right!" And what about next time?
Shortcuts are handy, saving work when proving guilt and crime.
But all of us may pay the cost when justice is debased.
Better to strive for truth in time than for revenge in haste.

People in power may have foes whom they would love to get.
If they can find a precedent, will it be abused? You bet!
So let's take care, when we're enraged, to what we might agree,
Or we may find when it's too late that we're no longer free.