

# CRUEL UNENDING DRAMA

MIKE KEITH

Richmond, Virginia

The poem below was composed under a double constraint, which was to encode the first 85 decimal digits of two well-known irrational numbers. Can the reader discover what those numbers are, and how they are encoded?

Will keeping dogma alter evil, sir?  
 (Black, familiar evil - war, even:  
 "HOLY" its government-issued, musty label)

Civic hero, new pup, bureaucrat,  
 political doer commencing campaign  
 (having weak logic, generally),  
 Intellectual of top local renown,  
 religious, doddering king  
 (improbably governing): All poison.

Seeking comfort, I interview myself.  
 Questions, enigmas (always the enigmas!) rise, vexing;  
 tired senses gasp.  
 Nincompoop succeeds nincompoop,  
 damning oneself.

Still voting, mumbling typical good-honest-king pap?  
 Drop tomorrow!  
 Forget barbaric history!  
 Follow life!

(Then, revelling steadily, ski round frosty, big Romania.)