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*I am a city by the sea
sinking into a toxic tide.*

*I've been scattered in pieces,
torn by conflict,
mocked by laughter,
washed down in drink.*

*In alleyways I sweep myself up
out of garbage and broken glass.*

*It's here in all the pieces of my shame
that now I find myself again.¹*

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*Manhattan sinking like a rock
into the filthy Hudson, what a shock.
They wrote a book about it,
they said it was like ancient Rome.²*

¹ Rainer Maria Rilke, "II,2" (excerpts), *Rilke's Book of Hours*, trans. Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy, Riverhead Books, New York, NY: 1996, 2005.

² Lou Reed, "Romeo Had Juliette," *New York, Sire*, 1989.