

## **Rome**

Newcomer, if you're seeking Rome in Rome  
And missing Rome in what of Rome you see,  
These ancient arches, temples of history,  
Walls, and palaces bear the Roman name.

Grandeur in ruins, see what's now become  
Of Rome that swayed the world, learning first  
To rule itself, and then to rule the rest,  
Devoured by omnivorous, ravening time.

Nothing of Rome but Rome endures forever,  
And only Rome can conquer Rome at last.  
Only the inexhaustible Tiber River

Remains of Rome. O world, inconstant ever!  
Time guarantees that what is hard is lost.  
And what persists is what has yielded most.

***Joachim du Bellay***

(1522-1560)

translated by J. Kates

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