

The Break Up

By some grace not God's own
He found himself alone.
She who he loved
And she alone,
She who had grown
In heart and mind
Over the years so dear,
So close, so near,
Though physically separate
(Alas, strong desire must pass)
She his comfort, his friend,
More so now than when
Their young bodies drew
Like rabid dogs,
Teeth bared, howling
Genital to genital
In naked nights' delight,
This companion of his life
Who he thought would be with him,
Oh, yes always!
She left his world

Turned inward body and mind
Upon a fault's mysterious fracture
And burst the seam of their guarded life.
Yes, his wife
Whose sacramental promise was forever,
Through better or worse,
Left him alone in midlife,
Left with another lover.
No, he never thought it would come to this
She leaving with that disease,
That damn cancer
That romanced her this past year
Leaving him to age
Alone and fearing.
He would never forgive her,
Damn unfaithful wife!
Violated by the surgeon's knife.

-Richard Jay Shelton