

Robert K. Johnson – Three Poems

Beyond Old

Waking in dawn light already
so bright I have to squint,
I see you sitting silently
in a far corner chair.
While I eat a healthy breakfast--

yogurt, juice, fresh fruit--
you loiter near the stove.
I go for a blue-sky walk
around the block, and you,
across the street, keep pace.

All day long, you remain ready
at the slightest provocation--
a feeble muscle, a shirt now frayed,
words of an old love song--
to sting me with hot sadness.

The Poet's World

A poet,
still half asleep,
looks out the window
at the grey dawn

and sees, perched
in a nearby tree,
a good idea
for a poem.

Not the fool
many people
are convinced
all poets are,

he right away
memorizes
the perched idea
--because he knows

if he doesn't,
it will soon
fly out of sight
forever.

A Keepsake

Whatever comes
on later days,
I will always own
the lilting love
I feel for you
that, today,
is like the wings
of a light plane
dipsy doodling
through a blue sky.

Robert K. Johnson, now retired, was a Professor of English at Suffolk University for many years. For eight years he was also the Poetry Editor of *Ibbetson Street Magazine*. His poems have been published individually in a wide variety of magazines. The most recent full-length collections of his poems are *From Mist To Shadow* and *Choir of the Day*.