

Absence

I always thought that you,
dear friend, had been away
due to a long, far journey.

I thought I knew you well,
although I had no memory
of ever seeing you.

Stirring stories I heard
about your distant deeds,
and I felt a link with you
though never saw your face.

I asked you in my heart,
"How long, how far from here
has questing taken you?
Does destiny intend for me
someday to hear your voice?"

My white-haired years
now tell me it is I
who traveled out upon
that long, far journey.

Soon I will be coming back
to share my life's adventures
with you in a place not
far away nor danger-filled,
a place as near as breath and pulse.

I've missed your easy laugh
and kindly voice, dear friend,
but soon enough we'll meet again
to pray the prayers of ancient days.