

## HOME STRETCHED

How the demons woo the wee ones,  
as they tear a home apart,  
sowing discord in the key ones  
who have lost their journey's heart!

How the sorrows shape tomorrows  
of a couple set aflame  
by the begging thief that borrows  
through the leverage of shame!

How sharp little words can whittle,  
carving up and cutting down  
fragile married souls, made brittle  
under bitter farce and frown!

Offspring growing should be flowing  
through a watershed of grace,  
setting sail with breezes blowing,  
as they bless the human race.

But what follows from the hollows  
of a child's disrupted life  
is an empty ache that wallows  
in self-pity's echoed strife.

O that spouses fill their houses  
with the care that tied their knot!  
Is there passion that arouses  
more than dreams the two forgot?

Let a father and a mother  
lift their reddened eyes above—  
give forgiveness to each other  
from God's reservoir of love!

May those wedded bonds, which bedded  
under peaceful roof, once more  
taste the sweet embraces shredded  
by the heat of keeping score.

— *David L. Hatton, 10/10/2019*