

## PARENTAL PAIN

Parental painful love—  
A struggle against temptation  
to cut the heart strings  
to stop the heart's care,  
to let the heart slip  
past the hurt of a commitment  
prodded by clotted communication,  
pounded by the hounding bite  
of immaturities in action,  
of incapacities in reason,  
of infidelities in person. . . .

Parental painful love—  
A fight against anger  
at unheeded warnings,  
at repeated wanderings,  
at conceited whinings  
about worthless rules,  
about useless restrictions,  
about meaningless responsibilities,  
like chores for cleanliness,  
like choices for promptness,  
like changes for godliness. . . .

Parental painful love—  
A wrestling against demons  
who block out light,  
who knock out life,  
who lock out love  
through holes in the soul  
from drugs in the brain  
with words to a beat  
that sells the excuse  
that sears the inhibition  
that seals the exits. . . .

Parental painful love—  
A stand against rebellion  
with wounded faith,  
with damaged vision,  
with weakened hope  
for false friends to fade,  
for chemical thrills to chill,  
for loud lyrics to languish  
before Heaven's holy light,  
before fractured fragments are lost,  
before healing helps too late. . . .

— *David L. Hatton, 5/5/1992*