

## PREFACE TO A PIECE OF WISDOM

Beneath veneers of nature's beauty sung in verse  
free promiscuity can hide—yet worse—  
the varied right-now flings of fire's desire  
can turn to ashes on old age's pyre.

But ties of loyalty in true love last  
to grow a future richer than its past,  
while crowds who *sleep with many* never know  
the joy in moving t'ward "[The Big Five-0.](#)"

— *David L. Hatton, 5/20/2023*