

THE SECRET OF MARRIAGE

Romantic attractions can tickle and thrill
and move to distraction the reason and will,
or like a calm ocean, whipped up by a gale,
its waves of emotion are tricky to sail.

A marriage can form from attraction's romance,
but love is the norm for the marital dance;
for darling delight disappears as it draws
and often takes flight when it meets a mate's flaws.

Though faults in a partner are prickly as pins,
compassion can cover a concourse of sins;
for feelings may falter at conflict and strife,
but vows at the altar pledge loving for life.

Let couples rejoice for their starry-eyed highs
but love's the right choice when the honeymoon dies,
for selfishness kills from its despotic "me,"
while love learns the skills of maintaining the "we."

— *David L. Hatton, 1/1/2022*