

Samuel Dixon

SENIOR - 3rd Place
Alumni Poetry Contest - 2016

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Happiness and Pain

There once was a young man
Who made friends
With Pleasure and Comfort, two brothers.

"My good friends, I will never leave you!"
He said to them often.
He cared for them greatly and clung to them hastily.

The three companions enjoyed
Months of warmth and good food
And never did there exist a single dull day;

But as time wore on, the man felt
An incredible emptiness
As he looked over the sea from his comfortable home.

He liked what he had there
With Pleasure and Comfort
But something was lacking.

He looked upon the sea for days on end
And was intrigued
By its overwhelming vastness

And wondered what it would be like
To answer its call
And pursue that unknown world.

But Pleasure and Comfort opposed him fiercely
And tried to change his mind
But he was determined and didn't falter;

And so he left.

The man embarked and set out to sea
Where he made new friends
Called Pain and Suffering

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With whom he sailed for months and months
And never left their side
For they were his friends now; loyal Guides.

They led him on and on,
But soon he got tired
And missed his old friends;

But Pain convinced the man to stay
With a promise of something great;
A gift that Pleasure and Comfort could not provide.

The man reluctantly remained
And sailed on with Pain
Who led him to the far reaches of the sea.

But one day they reached a port
Where a little town hummed along
And enticed the man from his cold boat.

For on the shore, next to a large fire with a roasted boar
Stood Pleasure and Comfort
Awaiting his arrival

He greeted them and
Was no longer cold and
Nor did he hunger

But he learned from his voyage
That he lacked something else
The promise of which Pain had spoken.

He looked into the distance
And saw Pain standing in the cold
At the base of the mountain.

The man followed immediately
And greeted Pain, who said

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"I know what you seek"

And so the two set off once again
And journeyed to the top of the mountain
Side by side

The man reached the top and saw Pain
In the embrace of another
Whom he had not met.

The other was called Happiness and
Together they sat
In complete contentment.

And from then on, the man
Was eternally grateful to Pain, for
Without whom he would not have found Happiness.