

FOURTH PRIZE WINNER

To Speak or Not to Speak

Some things we'd really like to say
Are better left unsaid,
For where we'd try to set things straight
We'd leave a wound instead.
At first we'd feel relieved inside
To keep the upper hand,
But in the end would lose a friend
Who could not understand.

Some things we'd like to leave unsaid
We really ought to say;
Truth's alchemy applied in love
Won't drive a friend away
But in the end bring forth the gold
That silence could not do:
A lasting friendship built on trust
That's tested and found true.

The key to knowing when to speak
And when we should refrain
Is knowing what our motive is
And what we hope to gain:
Are we replete with thoughts of self
And ego to defend,
Or thoughts of others and what's best
To help a cherished friend?

Agatha Ratzlaff

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