

Rayna Batya

Not yet a year old  
She beckons me with her hand  
As if to say "Come Dada"  
And leaves her mother's arms for my embrace

Putting her head on my shoulder  
She lies quietly and calm  
As I stroke her slowly  
And whisper "Dada loves you"

Today she uttered the word "Da"  
And crowd to me on all fours.  
I grab her placing y lips in the nape of her neck  
With a "poid" a loud blow kiss that makes the sound of a belch.

As I hold her  
Rocking slowly to calm her  
I am in heaven once again  
With each child  
This age  
When they first realize a Dada  
And come to me  
With open arms  
And react to my invitation for  
"Hoppa hoppa Reiter"  
Some German child son my father used to sing  
That I have bastardized  
That even the older children laugh at when I sing

The moment is frozen in time for each child  
And now Rayna Batya's time has come.

For these few months I will be in heaven  
As each one responds to me as Dada  
After which they will become more and more socialized  
And I will recede into their pantheon of elders.

For now I am in heaven  
This deep connection does of course, much more for me,  
As I join the long chain of fathers and grandfathers  
Who hug their children and grandchildren unconditionally.  
This embrace puts everything else in life into perspective  
Making everything else meaningful  
And worth all the time effort trouble and sorrow  
As she lies on my neck  
I am filled with a lightness of heart  
And a fullness of being  
This little peanut does that to me

Her green eyes  
Her smile and giggles  
Her soft skin  
In one little bundle  
Holding me  
Helpless  
Dependent  
Yet in full control

She is aware!  
pre-verbal  
Yet her little vocal gestures inform us all of her desire  
As if she has not need(as yet) for language  
She conveys all through her eyes and expression  
Her inspiratory sighs  
And her wild gesticulations

She draws this love out of me  
It is as wide as the ocean  
And as she slowly falls to sleep in my arms  
I know the future is certain  
And I am comforted.