

## You Do Not Stand Alone

You do not stand alone when you die.

You do not die alone.

A creeping loss of ability, horizons changing.

A basketball player

one crutch

two crutches

a wheelchair.

Only one hand works

then none

and later, slowly,

the lungs give up.

Until all is still.

You cannot stand alone when you die.

Others' hands take the place of your own

cutting your food

washing you

a shadow of a future

where they breathe for you.

Others' lives are part of yours

sustaining you

living with you

living in you.

You will not stand alone when you die.

None of us stand alone

the food we eat

the air we breathe

shared, connecting us.

Our lives entwine

we stand together

we live together

members of each other.

You shall not stand alone when you die.