

Live Long Enough

Live long enough
To be whittled away
A little bit
Day by day,
By night,
By slice of the knife,
Ever less of your life.

Phantom pain
Harrows your dreaming,
As real as the ache in the place
Hollowed out,
Where memory stews
In the emptiness left
By your losses.

Live long enough
To rave in the whirlwind,
Rage at the cuts and the creases,
And cruelties,
Whiplashed and weary,
Wounded by words,
Carved by a look
Or the lack of a look
Until nothing is left
But scar tissue,
Livid,
Unsightly,
But annealed
Against
The next creeping indignity.

Live long enough
To know when it's enough
To know when you know
All that you need
To know
To live
Enough.