

FSH REVIEW 2018 9

Based on my review and on reviewer comments I am not able to accept your submission in its present form. However, with minor revision it might be a valuable contribution to the journal. The main problem, in the reviewers' and the associate editor's eyes, is that the poem is more philosophical than poetical. However, we agree with Reviewer 2 that its speculative nature in itself creates a kind of poetry, so that its overall lack of imagery, allusion, and metaphor are not necessarily defects.

However, poetry works best in its particularity, not in abstractions or instruction. Thus, the direct address to the reader ("you") is powerful and engaging. However, you don't need the didactic prescriptions in stanzas 1 and 2 ("you must," "choose wisely"). The last stanza in particular is adrift in both prescription (do this, do that) and abstraction ("listened intuitions" - what are these?!) and diminishes the impact of the poem. This stanza could simply be cut, and the poem could conclude on its strongest line, the image of the reader been borne by the "air beneath the wing," which has meaningful religious connotations as well. Reviewer 1 is looking for a poem that you did not write, but we believe Reviewer 2 understands your poem very well and has done an admirable job of distilling it to its essence. Please consider revising along the line this reviewer suggests.

Letter II: I am pleased to inform you that your work has now been accepted for publication in *Families, Systems, and Health*. This is a gem of a poem - spare, cautionary, soaring. There are no wasted words, no pretentiousness, just awareness of many wisdoms, a trust of intuition, and a waft of uplift - surprisingly, a lightness of being is its deepest message.