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Father Famine

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**When my father died,
I was seventeen.
But he was mostly absent
From the time that I was ten.
When my father-in-law died,
His youngest son was 20.
I married that son at 34;
I never knew his father.
When my husband died,
His sons were teens,
With only a mother
To raise them.
When my daughter-in-law's father died,
She was only twenty-two.
My son knew her father,
But only in their dating years.
My children had no grandfathers;
My grandchildren will share that fate.
My hope is that their father
Is the one to buck the trend.**