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## The Patient

Hector J. Mirande  
*College of DuPage*

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# *The Patient*

Look beyond those bulging veins  
on the weathered head  
and you will see . . . I need you.

Listen past the sounds  
of rage and fury  
and you will hear . . . Please love me.

Touch gently the clenched fist  
and you will feel fingers opening up  
like the petals of a morning flower in friendship.

## *When You Are Silent*

I like it when you're silent  
Knowing your voice will shatter  
The hlsck crystal of my loneliness  
I like sharing darkness with you  
Pretending that it comes in stages;  
Theater lights dimming  
Thru the eyes of childhood  
Half closed in eager anticipation

I like going away from you  
Savoring the thrill of sighting you anew;  
Walking down a path throwing a shiny coin ahead  
Only to find it and again  
In a never ending game of rediscovery

I like growing old beside you  
Where firm of thigh  
And quick of wit  
We're gently held  
In the kindness of our memory

*(Poems by Hector J. Mirande)*

## *The Black Angel*

Painter of churches, of heavenly hosts  
your angels are lovely, your cherubs robust

Your sensitive canvas, is screaming a lack  
for heaven's belied, if no angels are black.

Your virginal maidens, madonnas so fair  
if death claims a colored, their space must be shared.

Labor of love, in yellows and blue  
true mirror of mankind, while scorning a hue.

Christianity's glory, upon ceiling and wall  
mute hymn to a God, never shared at all.

