



10-1-1990

## Couplets for an Only Son

Brad L. Roghaar

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq>

---

### Recommended Citation

Roghaar, Brad L. (1990) "Couplets for an Only Son," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 30 : Iss. 4 , Article 9.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol30/iss4/9>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *BYU Studies Quarterly* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

## Couplets for an Only Son

Late at night if I'm awake too long  
I steal inside his darkened room, alone,  
Moved by a startling power, deep pulling need,  
To see at growth, asleep, my growing seed.

I place his casual arm beneath the sheet  
And feel the busy marrow where my fingers meet,  
Where science says the platelets are produced,  
The throbbing corpuscles stamped and then set loose.

I kneel, not for assurance against death,  
But to feel the dampened molecules of his breath,  
The life I witnessed blown into his lung  
As it slips past his lips and sweetened tongue.

And feeling the blood within my own breast,  
I reach down my hand and cover his chest.  
I feel the vulnerable, insistent beat,  
The heart, the blood, full-formed, complete.

Through my fingers, the message is quite plain:  
I Know that Abraham was certainly insane.

—Brad L. Roghaar