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# POETRY OF MARK MURPHY

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## Death in the Sickroom

Who knows more than children  
that death leaves its own disagreeable malady  
in the minds of the living siblings?

All the wringing of hands in the sickroom,  
the necessary prayer, the clasping  
of hands held in resignation and despair,

each man and woman – ultimately alone  
in the houses of their upbringings,  
ineluctably aware of their own demise.

They talk in careful whispers, even now,  
behind the shuttered windows,  
where the human family gathers in unity

of purpose, whilst the bespectacled doctor  
and bearded passer-by are never far  
enough away from the apprehension

of their own untimely passing;  
this is how it is with the pain of separation,  
when we look into the green rooms

of loss with their polished wooden floors  
where we turn our backs from the dying  
if only for a moment, we see beyond

the wasted remains of the long endured  
sickness, we see, at last, the unburdened heart;  
this is what it is to love, this is the divine.

## An Ending

And then it happens, another star in the light universe goes out  
and the star gazers are baffled by its demise –  
thinking as they did that it was such an immature star.

From nothing, through nothing, to nothing (says the philosopher) –  
we are alone here, this much we know, without seeing  
the quickening that would leave the night sky dark forever.

And then it happens, in that not too distant place  
where linear time is measured in moments not aeons –  
the heart closes to the possibility of connection.

And the thoughts of lovers were yet to declare  
an interest in creation beyond the reach of the naked eye,  
give birth to the incessant beating of their own ending.

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**Mark Murphy**, born in England, studied philosophy as an under graduate and poetry as a post graduate. His poems have appeared in magazines in Austria, Germany, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, Eire, America, Canada and the UK. I published a small collection of poems, *Tin Cat Alley* (Spout Publications). He's looking for a publisher for his manuscript, *Nightwatchman And Muse*.