

## THE NUANCES OF SILENCE

*E. G. Snell*

There is the silence of birth,  
There is the silence of death,  
There is the silence of love,  
There is the silence of hate,

There is the silence of hope,  
There is the silence of despair,  
There is the silence of winning,  
There is the silence of losing,

There is the silence of unease,  
There is the silence of exclusion,  
There is the silence of surprise,  
There is the silence of a friend,

There is the silence that saves,  
There is the silence that ignores,  
There is the silence of happiness,  
There is the silence of grief,

There is the silence of the morning,  
There is the silence of the night,  
There is the silence of snow falling,  
There is the silence of the moon,

There is the silence of remembering,  
There is the silence of forgetting,  
There is the silence of an instant,  
There is the silence of eternity,

Until the first breath is taken.  
Sometimes 'lorn and forsaken  
Seen in just a touch or a glance  
It cuts to the heart like a lance.

When one dares not to breathe.  
Stifled cries for relief that frees  
When all one's energy is spent.  
Leaving eons of time to repent.

On entering into a noisy room.  
Filling the outcast with gloom.  
Upon receiving a lover's token.  
No harsh words can be spoken.

If a vital secret lies suppressed  
When injustice is unaddressed.  
Now too overwhelmed to speak  
As tears slip down one's cheek.

When one waits for the dawning.  
Lovers count stars till morning  
A peace that restores the soul  
Bright In a sky as black as coal

Till one startled from a reverie.  
Forgiving and setting one free.  
Time is passing quick and clean  
What does final silence mean?