

She makes a bowl of popcorn,  
we manage three glasses each  
per bottle of Cold Duck, there  
are old movies or we just talk,  
and I don't have to worry about  
crashing the car or getting  
beat up by neanderthal urban  
cowboys.

I was recommending it to a friend,  
half expecting groans of censure,  
but he knew just how I felt.  
"It's called maturity," he said,  
"it happens to the best of us."

#### ODE FOR THE VERY SEPARATE

Dress for comfort  
because at ease, you'll look your best.  
Resist the temptation  
to complain about growing older  
we all do, and anyway  
you can always call it maturity.

By the same token  
stories about how much fun  
we had in the good old days  
must be avoided like the plague.

Forget about your hair  
there's not much you can do about it  
and don't kid yourself into believing  
a beard or a mustache  
will divert attention  
from a bald spot or a receding hairline.

Do your work  
don't talk too much  
expect nothing  
know your limits and stick to them  
leave early.