

A 21ST CENTURY CHILD'S BEDTIME PRAYER

By G. Louis Heath

I lay me down to sleep, Aaron's rod
under my pillow. I do not fear the

Rods of Thor orbiting through the
night. I have Aaron's staff to ward

off Kinetic Bombardment. High-
speed tungsten rods will not pierce

my body or soul tonight for I have
my staff with me. Though I sleep

under the Orbit of Doom, the
Kinetic Strike will not harm me.

KING CHARLES' HEAD

Sky death is the Yankee King Charles'
head, impaled on the angst of terror.

Looming in the firmament are razor
claws pernicious, steeped in carmine,

poised to thole away our essence. We
scan the horizon and sweep our high-

tech sensors over the blue, searing

nerves in search of imminent mortal,

peril plunging our way. This idée fixe
guides the tracks of our days and our

restless search for nighttime repose.
For now the King's head wins the war.

SHAKESPEARE AND I

Shakespeare scholar that I am, after many
years of monkish study, I crossed the

barrier between my mind and his, and
entered his. He became alive for me!

The centuries he'd been dead counted
for naught in our bond of playacting.

His creative genius lived in my visions
as I moved like a cat burglar through

the bright chambers of his mind, and
many dark ones, too. Alas, the narcotic

of my visions wore off, left me dazed,
groping for purchase on the familiar

quotidian. Forsooth, I swear, these are
not mere bon mots. I did not know

whether I had communed with the Bard
of Avon or simply gotten wet in a tide

of madness. The membrane between my
and his world, so permeable for a nonce,

crusted over of a sudden with the cake of
time and custom. My sighting of genius

lifted as wisps of ether into the night air.

Bio

G. Louis Heath, Ph.D., Berkeley, 1969, is Emeritus Professor, Ashford University, Clinton, Iowa. He enjoys reading his poems at open mics. He often hikes along the Mississippi River, stopping to work on a poem he pulls from his back pocket, weather permitting. His books include **Leaves Of Maple: An Illinois State University Professor's Memoir of Seven Summers' Teaching in Canadian Universities, 1972-1978, Long Dark River Casino, and Redbird Prof: Poems Of A Normal U, 1969-1981**. He has published poems in a wide array of journals. He may be contacted at gheathorov@gmail.com