

on the monument erected to the lovers. In Boaistuau, Brooke, and Painter, many epitaphs honouring the lovers' deaths are to be carved on a tomb or a monument. Following is Brooke's version:

And lest that length of time might from our myndes remoue  
 The memory of so perfect, sound and so approued loue,  
 The bodies dead, remoued from vaulte where they did dye  
 In stately tombe or pillars great of marble rayse they hye  
 On euery syde aboue were set, and eke beneath,  
 Great store of cunning Epitaphes, in honour of theyr death (ll. 3011-16).

20. See R. M. Frye's illuminating discussion of this speech in his *Shakespeare and Christian Doctrine* (Princeton, 1963), pp. 216-19.
21. John Lyly, *Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit* in *Elizabethan Fiction*, eds. Robert Ashley and Edwin M. Mosely (New York, 1953), p. 103.

## LONG RETURN

*John V. Hicks*

The rooms could do with a good dusting. Age  
 taints the nostrils. The bread has taken mould.  
 Expiry date of an old subscription  
 is uncertain; papers require to be sorted.  
 What touch triggered the drawn blind  
 will never be known. It was long since, before  
 the settling of the dust shower. Winter sun  
 seeped in, printing day by declining day  
 its restricted circuit there on the panels  
 of the north wall. That so pallid a light  
 should have faded the fine finish where it fell  
 speaks of a persistent penetration, asks  
 what and to what purpose in the year's strengthening  
 has time traced in an empty room. There was a tale  
 out of time that faltered and fell silent here.  
 Let it be seen what virtue is in a change  
 of air, in sound of the wound clock set to  
 take up ticks of talk it took from other hours.