

JONATHAN GREENHAUSE

## THE INTERPLANETARY TRAVELERS

The interplanetary travelers missed their rendezvous  
due to a miscalculation of the speed of light  
& ended up on exact opposite sides of the galaxy. It was light-years  
before they'd realized their mistake,

& by that time

they were weeks older & able to adjust their trajectories.  
Eventually their paths crossed by the light of a dying star;  
they swore to each other never to allow physics  
to keep them apart.

They renounced space-travel

& decided to settle down on a planet covered  
in the biochemical equivalent of flowers,  
& their resultant exchange of fluids could be best described  
as epically-romantic.

They were undeterred

by the lack of planets matching their flowery description  
& settled for one covered in neon signs  
advertizing a product promising the expulsion  
of all malevolent intestinal bacteria. Its commercial glow  
bathed them in a light akin  
to what one would expect to see upon dying.  
No one could remember the names of these travelers,  
just that they were madly-in-love or at least thought themselves to be.