

Encountering The Edge of Life

As Living Enters Its Final Phase,
Productivity and Contribution Squeeze Into the Expanding Past,

Doing Forfeits to Necessary Canes and Walkers,
Weakness and Fatigue Overcome Strength and Endurance,
Friends Gather to Share Roaming from Chair to Chair,
Health Degradations Collect in Confounding Clusters,
Tomorrow Depends On the Next “Procedure,”
Remaining Cognitively Present Sustains as a Hope,
The Bright Edge of Thought Threatens to Retreat Into the Mist,
Time-Out Naps Come to Punctuate the Days,
Watching the Clock Paces Time Between Meals,
Steps Shrink While the Curve Forward Advances,
Words and Names Glide Into Unpredictable Retirement,
Independence Transitions Through “Assisted” Living Euphemisms,
Completing the POLST Becomes Inescapable,
With Billions of Galaxies, a God Bound to Humans on Earth Doesn’t Compute,
Discovering the Sturdy Waves of Friends Often Dissolve Into Fizzing Foam,
Realizing the “No Pain” Options of Hospice and the ICU Provide No Answer,
Tracking the Convoluted Requirements to Qualify for “Death With Dignity”?

And Finally,
Experiencing the Best Wishes of Family Curl Into Loving Contortions.

Uncertainty Is Fundamental,
So,
We Carry On
Riding the Slide Into Afterlife
Resting Our Case
On High Quality Relationships –
Social, Ecological, and Spiritual
As the Best We Can Do!

[Including the Immaterial Dimension of Reality in the Spiritual
Offers an Expanded Version of Existentialism.]