

DYING IS A PROPER WAY OF LEAVING

Robert R. Worrell—Department of English

Dying is a proper way of leaving;
Dying is decorum, plain and fair.
Chance invites its advent but is certain
To let no inconvenience shame its heir.

Few attend departings, and they never
Destination ask—intent explore.
None converge in lines to bid safe passage
Or sentiments express ne'er felt before.

Most observe the column in the paper,
Brief surprise or consternation dree,¹
Speak regretfully of deeds neglected,
But the dead is spared the eulogy.

When sad, somber folks file by the casket
Vowing the deceased looks natural,
Never will the corpse have facial spasms
From smiling; the mortician plied the stull.²

Dying is a proper way of leaving.
My departure, let it be the same.
I will leave my quarters clean and empty;
Just take the key, not mentioning my name.

NOTES:

1 Endure or suffer

2 A supporting framework used in mines to prevent cave-ins; used here metaphorically