

## Rocket Man

### Pearls Before Swine

My father was a rocket man  
He often went to Jupiter or Mercury, to Venus or to Mars  
My mother and I would watch the sky  
And wonder if a falling star  
Was a ship becoming ashes with a rocket man inside

My mother and I  
Never went out  
Unless the sky was cloudy or the sun was blotted out  
Or to escape the pain  
We only went out when it rained

My father was a rocket man  
He loved the world beyond the world, the sky beyond the sky  
And on my mother's face, as lonely as the world in space  
I could read the silent cry  
That if my father fell into a star  
We must not look upon that star again

My mother and I  
Never went out  
Unless the sky was cloudy or the sun was blotted out  
Or to escape the pain  
We only went out when it rained

Tears are often jewel-like  
My mother's went unnoticed by my father, for his jewels were the stars  
And in my father's eyes I knew he had to find  
In the sanctity of distance something brighter than a star  
One day they told us the sun had flared and taken him inside

My mother and I  
Never went out  
Unless the sky was cloudy or the sun was blotted out  
Or to escape the pain  
We only went out when it rained