WIND

I love the wind

I buried my father on a windy day

The fierce wind blew my silk dress high

It brushed against my cheek

I felt my father’s presence

I always felt my father’s presence

He was a pivotal force within my life

He loved me--He valued me

He safeguarded me

And he wanted me to reach every pinnacle

His last day of school at 13 found him using his lunch money to buy a watermelon

Which he ate on a park bench

The next day he joined my grandfather picking apples and irrigating orchards

This marked the end of his dream of every becoming a sports journalist

Many years later, I blew wind into his fallen-down dreams

When I graduated from college he was in a hot air balloon soaring high into the sky

When I told him, I had gotten accepted into a Ph.D. program he was elated

And when my daughter walked across the podium of Smith College on her graduation day

I knew he was smiling down on us from heaven
The wind reminds me of his force

His dream

That we furthered that dream

Kept the race going

Kept the balloons in the air

The way he would have wanted

Today, I thank him for his vision

His hopes and dreams for his children and grandchildren

His memory keeps despair out of my heart

Gives me hope for all our lives

Brings me faith

He shines down his love

Blesses us daily

My father the wind of my life.