

THE OVERREACHING THREAT OF FRAILTY

by Oscar Treadwell

At maturity, a man
six foot three and two hundred pounds,
moves through life
assured and wary less;
shoulders back, eyes alert
meets encounters with ease
receiving smiles, and quick hellos
hearing no slander, or slight,
missing in concern
and disbelief in cowering
or acknowledging a threat
body systems intact
and sure, he walks with
precision and confidence.
Then,
after years
not know fears,
avoiding confrontation,
by his very presence;
an illness grips his nervous system,
immobilizing responses
to half speed
and hesitation,
his body must assume a
different tack;
knowing physical limits
for the first time,
and adjusting to intimidation
and thinking, cowardice of
woman, and men,
less powerful than he,
have endured all their lives, finds him..
No longer the lance of prowess
and strength,
but an object seen as target
now, than threat, seeks how to combat with
preparation and thought a
reactionary response to what
might be his life style
of the future,
no longer to prevail, but
to endure with guile?
and subterfuge?
though a target,
face the arrows.
HOW.....with dignity?.

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