

**The Wake**  
**By: Jack LaValley**

Even when I said...  
You had seen a birth  
and carried the dead,  
found wisdom, and your face in a pinball,  
come from the ocean and gone to the moon,  
eaten life, and been eaten, prayed for help  
and felt the love, a new idea, and a tired  
heart in the palm of your hand,  
that you had a friend and a rose in your lapel,  
seen an atom, and killed a virus, heard the  
rumble of thunder, loved, and seen a  
small white cloud in a royal blue sky,  
fought and crowned yourself king, flown  
in a dream, and cried with a violin, that  
you'd seen lightning, and a rainbow, and  
a woman dripping in diamonds, and smelled  
bacon and eggs while finding your balance,  
and you'd seen a flower, found a heart in  
the wilted page of an attic journal, and held  
a baby to your cheek, groveled in the agony  
of loss, and couldn't stop laughing, and that  
you were stardust spewed from the mouth of space...  
they stroked your casket and said you  
were in a better place now.