

## The Lone Shadowed Aisles

An  
arrogant  
man said:

*“Admire me!”*

as  
he worked  
late evenings  
and weekends,

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-  
-

chasing uncertainty  
down the competition highways  
leading to imaginary reprieve

but  
providing the means  
to live luxuriously

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-  
i

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-

the

. . . rare . . .

-  
-  
-

. . . spare . . .

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-  
-

seconds

. . . between . . .

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i

n

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the

... rare ...

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... spare ...

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seconds

... between ...

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-

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the hours he

would work

... and sleep ...

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-

-

He would

proudly

display his

commendation

trophies

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all

to see,

screaming:

*“Look at me!”*

-

-

*“This is me!”*

-

-

-- continued next page --

A more  
simple man  
embraced  
humility  
and  
took the  
very next exit,  
so he could  
steer clear  
of the  
meaningless  
clutter  
and  
remain  
ever so near  
the things  
he held so dear:

-  
-  
-

*Sharing the  
emotional tears  
with those who feel  
. . . dismal and drear . . .*

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-  
-

*Calming  
a neighbor's  
worries  
and fears  
over starting  
. . . a new career . . .*

-  
-  
-

*Taking  
the time to be  
true and sincere  
to friends, family,  
and work-related  
. . . peers . . .*

-  
-  
-

-- continued next page --

*Bringing cheer  
to those revered  
throughout the years,  
over memorabilia,  
laughter, and  
... beer ...*

-  
-  
-

At journey's end  
both died,  
and to their  
... graves retired ...

-  
-  
-

~ one closed his eyes ~  
with the content smile  
of a full and rewarding life,  
bathing in the warming ease  
of all the years that brought him  
... prestige, passion, and peace ...

-  
-  
-

~ he was surrounded by ~  
... the echoes of mourn ...

-  
-  
-

... the mist-colored eyes ...

-  
-  
-

of those he touched  
... while in his time ...

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-  
.  
.  
.

-- continued next page --

~ the other raged ~  
with eyes frantic

-

-

-- still open wide --  
racing to accomplish  
. . . every mission in sight . . .

-

-

~ still embracing ~  
the cold denial  
that led him

-

d

o

w

n

-

those lone,  
shadowed  
. . . aisles . . .

-

-

-

~ he died alone ~  
with forgotten  
purpose or meaning,

-

-

leaving his prized  
contributions

-

a

n

d

-

possessions  
. . . behind . . .

-

-

that few  
would ever  
recall  
or  
recognize.