

Petty vs. Pity

When tempted
to be petty,
have pity.

Petty narrows down
and constricts;
pity broadens out
and expands.

Petty puts down
and pushes away;
pity builds up
and embraces.

Petty is afraid
and has no room;
pity is spacious
and courageous.

Petty prefers the
small and minuscule;
the scope of pity
is grand.

Petty's reach is short
and its vision limited;
the sweep of pity
is panoramic.

Petty is interior
drought and famine;
pity slakes our thirst
and nourishes the soul.

Where petty shuts down
in isolation,
pity opens out
into compassion.

To show largesse,
therefore,
is gracious;
but it's a pity
when you are
petty.

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