

## *Presents vs. Presence*

As we give  
our presents,  
do we also offer  
our presence?

Which is more important:  
the worth of our presents  
or the value of our presence?

Is our concern more with  
the quantity of our presents  
than the quality of our presence?

By our presents  
we give what we have;  
in our presence  
we share who we are.

By giving a present  
some engage in  
a transaction;  
by being present, however,  
they should forge  
a relationship.

As we buy each other presents,  
are we trying to purchase  
the other's presence?

A present is a thing;  
but only a person  
can be present.

You use presents,  
but cultivate presence.  
You hold on to presents,  
but abide in presence.  
You give a present to,  
but you are present for.

The indigent  
and the poor  
do not want your presents,  
but they need your presence.

The tragedy of materialism:  
it feeds the craving  
for presents,  
but leaves you starving  
for presence.

Presents should be  
a manifestation  
of your presence;  
too often, however,  
they are a mask  
for your absence.

Present yourself,  
therefore,  
that is the best  
present!

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