

## Daniel A. Sterne

### Goodbye

Rubbing his back, easing him through death.  
I know love is pain. That its end is loss.

I left my grandfather in deepest sleep. I'll see  
Him carrying his wife to the bathroom  
As she shook.

Dying, he didn't panic. He didn't plead.

What can I do? Now, what gentle  
Kiss will fall on my cheek? Who will sing "Danny Boy"  
On the piano?

I still see him in a Parisian park  
With my brother. Who was innocent  
As his boat—a gift that sailed forever.

Grandpa lived a frugal life. It was no  
Sacrifice to bring ease or love.

As he strolled in memory of her  
He still had hope  
That he would meet her in the night. Her shakes  
Gone. And they'd sip wine  
At their wedding.

**Daniel A. Sterne** has written poetry in numerous workshops at the University of Mass at Boston. He studied with Lloyd Schwartz and Martha Collins at U. Mass and was chosen to represent U. Mass at the Inter-Collegiate Festival of Poetry. In addition he introduced the poets at Stone Soup in the late 1980's and very often read his own poetry. At U. Mass Daniel was honored with the Marcia Keach Poetry Prize. Daniel has been intensively writing poetry for many years. His subjects have ranged from politics to love poems.