

## Harris Gardner

### Worthy of Rejection

Dear Poet, please feel free to submit  
three to five, no, make that five to ten  
samples of your best intent.  
Be warned, your labor may be in vain.

Inane thoughts may lead your vanity  
to consider sparkling rhinestones worthy  
of scrutiny through our jeweler's loupe.  
The brilliance of that is beyond our scope.

Abandon all hope ye who enter  
our contests that favor the few elite  
who shall rise on the great occasion  
of all final judgments. Oh, the chaff

is relentless. How can you expect  
the dough to rise when yeast is absent?  
At least bottle and cork your poems.  
Age them on the shelf in good oak.

Test the process periodically.  
If it hasn't turned to vinegar or worse,  
submit your verses for our inspired response.  
While you anticipate, try a whip, enjoy the pain.

**Harris Gardner:** Credits: The Jewish Advocate; The Harvard Review; Midstream; Cool Plums; Rosebud; Fulcrum; The Aurean; Endicott Review; Ibbetson Street Journal; City of Poets Anthology; Main Street Rag; Facets; Poesy; Vallum (Canada); Pemmican; The New Renaissance (forthcoming); WHL Review; I Refused to Die-A Holocaust Study by Susie Davidson; and about fifty other publication credits.

Co-authored with Lainie Senechal a volume of poetry: *Chalice of Eros*; his next collection: *Lest They Become* (Ibbetson Street Press) 2003. New Collection: *Among Us* (Cervena Barva Press) November, 2007. Host of two poetry venues; founder of Boston National Poetry Month Festival, 2001 to the present; Co-founder (with Doug Holder) of Breaking Bagels with the Bards, a weekly poetry community; Poet-in-Residence, Endicott College, Beverly, MA. 2002 –April, 2005. Nominated for Pushcart Prize – Fall, 2005. Honorable Mention- Boyle-Farber Prize (New England Poetry Club) 2004