



## The Gift Wrap and the Jewel

*by Wanda B. Goines, 92 years old*

I looked in the mirror and what did I see,  
but a little old lady peering back at me.  
With bags and sags and wrinkles and wispy white hair  
I asked my reflection, how did you get there?  
You once were straight and vigorous  
and now you're stooped and weak  
when I tried so hard to keep you from becoming an antique.  
My reflection's eyes twinkled and she solemnly replied,  
'You're looking at the gift wrap and not the jewel inside'  
a living gem and precious of un-imagined worth,  
unique and true, the real you, the only you on earth.

The years that spoil your gift wrap  
with other things more cruel  
should purify and strengthen and polish up that jewel.  
So focus your attention on the inside, not the out  
on being kinder, wiser, more content and more devout.  
Then, when your gift wrap is stripped away,  
your jewel will be set free  
to radiate God's glory, throughout eternity.