

**To the Newspaper, published by Poets Choice, February 2020,
www.poetschoice.com**

ISBN 13-978-1-946211-14-9

“Dying Regrets (for the Obituary Page)”

Dear Editor:

We read obituaries to answer our nagging
questions about life, but no one there talks.

Let's hear from them as they're dying,
when they yearn to warn us, the living:

They say, We have a few regrets.
They say, Money and things are dust in the wind.

They say, In the final hours,
physical details fall away,
a heavy coat you no longer wish to wear.

They tell us, Honor your dreams;
they're more real than reality.

Choose to be happy;
like ruby slippers, you had this power all along!

They tell us, Become who you are,
that person patiently waiting just up ahead,
not the stranger in ill-fitting clothes
who said that he was you.

Their last words, as they leave:
Connect with loved ones. This is all that matters.

(Source: American Association of Retired Persons)

Alison Jennings