

Norman Looked Down

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Norman was a wise old man
who also lived to be 98.
We knew he was wise.
His books leave bonfires
of truth everywhere among
the designated desperate.

Norman loved a good fire;
he hated being cold;
but he incinerated the nondescript.

Legends and stories of Norman
bring laughter and tears.
We even laugh at what was not funny
at the time.

Often, things he thought funny appalled us,
or things appalling to him drew laughter
from some. About the time one predicted him,
strange things happened.

Norman's in heaven now,
though we have no objective proof
of that. That's how he would
want it. Maybe he can't prove
that we're still here either.

Anyway, to get to my story,
Norman looked down to see
what everybody was doing with
his books and tapes—and memories
of his words and extreme doings.

He saw that different ones make

of him what they will.
One has pot roast, another duck—
others eat only broccoli and fish.
Some pig out on ice cream all the time.
Still others don't eat at all.

He thought about asking God if he could
come down and eliminate some confusion
about what his words mean.
God said, "No, I've thought about doing
the same thing Myself, but one trip
was enough. Remember when you said in
God Unlimited, quoting Kierkegaard I think,
'Only the truth that edifies is the truth for you'?"

In his heart, Norman knew this.
He looked at God, and God looked at him.
So they went off in a merry dance
and so do we.

10-29-03