

Lights and Shadows

Volume 24 *Lights and Shadows* Volume 24

Article 26

1980

On Our Anniversary

Patricia A. Smith

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.una.edu/lightsandshadows>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Smith, P. A. (1980). On Our Anniversary. *Lights and Shadows*, 24 (1). Retrieved from <https://ir.una.edu/lightsandshadows/vol24/iss1/26>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by UNA Scholarly Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Lights and Shadows* by an authorized editor of UNA Scholarly Repository. For more information, please contact jpate1@una.edu.

PATRICIA A. SMITH
Honorable Mention, Poetry

ON OUR ANNIVERSARY

Our marriage is a garden that requires tender care.

If we are to be fruitful and flourish,

We must be rooted deeply in the rich, fertile earth of love,

Close enough to pollinate, but not to strangle.

We must defend it against the weeds of jealousy and deceit,

And from the choking vines of overdependence;

Lest they deprive us of the nourishment of respect and confidence,

And force us to grow pale and sickly.

We must be ever fearful of overshadowing one another,

But strive to grow apace

That one of us will never deprive the other

Of the warming sun of recognition.

We must water with the salving virtues

Of thoughtfulness and selflessness,

Lest we suffer the drought of indifference.

If, by chance, we notice that it is becoming neglected,

We must nurture it ever more carefully.

If, as in winter, it appears that our garden is dead,

We must remember that underneath cold, uncaring cruelty

Lie our seeds, only dormant.

With patience and forgiveness, spring, and new growth will come again.