

My Debt

If all only gave  
None could give:  
There would be none  
To receive.  
If all only received  
None could receive:  
There would be none  
To give.  
He who only gives  
As he only receives  
Is a parasite.  
A blight.  
Morality  
Is simply  
The balance of  
How much of  
What  
One gives  
To  
How much of  
What  
One receives.  
This symbiosis  
Between  
My son and me:  
Can it be  
Moral  
For all its  
Warmth and  
Serenity?  
He asks only  
Peanut butter  
And  
A pig-back ride,  
Giving  
Back  
Galaxies of  
Joy.

-- Robert H. Riffenburgh

San Diego, California