

## The Runner

She gazed at the hill  
Ready to climb  
Not her first challenge  
Today or in time

Beginning, the runner,  
First, started off slow  
Inertia then building  
She steadied her roll

Grass hills rolled  
And her mind swept away  
To the challenges of life  
That made her this way

To climb, and not stop  
She embodied perseverance  
Carrying the ones  
In need of her resilience

Thinking a drift  
Of a white-headed mother  
Who snickered, and smiled  
As they baked with each other

The joyful two women  
A pea and a pod  
Friends for eternity  
Despite their time robbed

The runner, though sad,  
Still pressed on with a smile  
The endurance she built  
From all of her miles

Yes though she grieved,  
And longed for that friend  
Her thoughts immeasurable  
At the time they had spent

The hill had now steadied  
The climb now mid mile  
Legs burning, side cramping  
The runner walked for a while

Recalling dark days  
Of family tribulations  
Where the runner raced over  
To calm situations

Light and dark hair,  
Sat in a pile  
And the runner would come  
To sit for a while

Until the storm stopped  
She'd stay by their side  
Calming their fears  
And wiping their eyes

Those two tiny tots  
Both women today,  
Will never forget  
Of the strength that she gave

The hill now edged  
Almost to the end  
Except the steepest, roughest  
Part was ahead

So she gritted her teeth  
as had done before  
She wouldn't stop now  
And pushed on once more

Feet moved, mind absconded  
Adrift from the road  
Remembering the man  
She had just left at home

Now gray in his hair  
But same kind eyes  
Her heart leapt; breath quickened  
To be by his side

And as she raced on  
She remembered her vows  
In sickness and health  
Now oh so profound

For though time had brought  
Some unimaginable change  
The strength in their souls  
And tough love remained

The hill, now a mountain  
The toughest to beat  
She had to manage  
This monstrous feat

Her pace quickened  
Muscles on fire  
Nothing would stop  
This runner's desire

Home at last  
Peak achieved  
Man at the door  
Large smile received

For though it was hard  
It was worth every mile,  
To be by his side  
At home for a while