

## A P A R E N T ' S   A M B I T I O N

"Protect my children from my secret wish  
to make them over in my image and illusions.  
Let them move to the music that they love  
dissonant perhaps to me." (Nissim Ezekiel)

We have raised them, sculpted them, schooled them,  
Exposed them to our ways and our world.  
Who can blame our parental conceit,  
Imposing our dreams on their heads.

Give us the courage and wisdom  
To sever the incestuous ties  
Free them from the bondage of mimicry.  
Not in our image are they created,  
Extensions of our ambitions,  
Duplications of our aspirations.

Let them imitate God, not us.  
Let them be freed of servitude to anyone.  
Give us the wisdom to let go of them,  
The moral way to hold them close.

*- Harold M. Schulweis*