

Family at Large

**Can you find the child within laughing with abandon
laughing because, because the sun is up
that's reason enough.**

**Can you find the child within weeping unconstrained
weeping for the glory of it in loud, untamed refrains.**

**Can you find the child within making gleeful study of mud
intrigued by squirmy bug
recklessly coursing down a meandering track
bored by too much yakkity yak
climbing up and falling down
reaching the top of the hill just to roll all the way back to the bottom –
such a clown.**

**Ah, look within – the child's asleep
lying in haphazard peace
bits and crumbs in tousled hair –
Now, how did that get there?**

**Soul deep grows the kernel of parenthood
wholly from God, holy as God,*
allowing the child within to thrive.
Thus, one person, alone but God-filled**
turns to the inward mirror and sees the rudiment of family.**

**Within us all is the stuff of parenthood
Protection, Guidance, Nurture, Support, Forgiveness, Comfort,
Encouragement, Loving-kindness
for our laughing weeping climbing falling running reaching making doing sleeping
child within.**

**May we extend all the gifts of parenthood and the exuberance of childhood
To every friend, every neighbor, to every coworker, to our husbands and wives,
companions, significant others, to sisters and brothers, third cousins once removed,
Grandpa! Grandma, too
to people we don't know who are needy
to people in need, to young, to old,
to those of the in between, to all those of our every day,
our every day world family.**

Say shalom, pass the peace to all the family.