There's More to Life Than Frequent Flyer Miles

Barbara J. Tobin

A face so worn
Creased by strain
Emerges from the terminal
Yet again.

An endless round of meetings
From here to there and back,
Criss-crossing global boundaries
Pack, unpack, repack.

How can that face so worn
Stand yet another trip?
The body is confused,
The mind is stretched to keep a grip.

Ohio, Denver, Kansas City,
Costa Rica, oh, so pretty,
Miami, Mexico, Montreal,
Taiwan, Seattle, Israel.

Our President can barely match
This frequent flyer's schedule
What drives him through this frantic pace?
What is his inner source of fuel?

It cannot be the hotel rooms,
The rental cars, the city fumes,
The snowy days, the flight delays,
The bleak subways,
The dim cafes,
Freeway speeding,
Overeating,
Even breakfast boardroom meetings.

No, his motivation's more intrinsic,
Altruistic;
A burning need to share, to shape,
To help create
The best approach concerning
How to engage all teachers and their students
In effective, reflective, life-long learning.

Perhaps a worn face
Is a small price to pay
To enhance the state of education,
But one mind can only do so much;
Your collaboration and negotiation
Have already met with acclamation.

Come home, my man,
The world will still turn
If you slip home for vacation;
It's time to end these overdoses
Time to come and smell the roses.