

The Dash

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at a funeral
of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone
from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke
of the following date with tears, but said what
mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent
alive on earth and now only those who loved them
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars...
the house...the cash. What matters is how we
lived and loved and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; are there things
you'd like to change? For you never know how much
time is left that can still be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation
more and love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear
a smile...remembering that this special dash might
only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions
to rehash...would you be proud of the things
they say about how you lived your dash?