

COURAGE

&
fear

Courage first met fear
When I was still a child;
Courage gazed with cool, clear eyes;
Fear was something wild.

Courage urged, "Let's go ahead."
Fear said, "Let's turn back."
Courage spoke of what we had;
Fear of what we lacked.

Courage took me by the hand
And warmed my frozen bones;
Yet Fear the while tugged at my legs
And whispered, "We're alone."

Many have been the obstacles
Since first I had to choose,
And sometimes when Courage led me on
I've come up with a bruise.

And many have been the challenges
Since Fear and Courage met,
And yet those times I've followed Fear,
Too often—tagged along Regret.

by Michael H. Popkin

From the French word *coeur*, meaning "heart,"

courage is the "heart" that enables us to take wise risks.