

Equations**First Place Winner: Annual Poetry Contest**

By Vijay Matheswaran

For years, I sought
reason and proof,
sought trendlines that tell
of a life well-led.

For years, I sought
an equation for such a life.
And of the variables,
what shall I write?

Tell me, shall I sum
awards and acclaim?
Less the difference of
death and disappointment,
of grief?
And experience
an exponent, surely?

But in each line
all I could write was
love and love and love.