

April 5, 2020

## The Old Teddy Bear

I found this old teddy bear in a box  
I believe it was my late father's  
From when he was a young child  
So many decades ago

The bear is very worn  
And loved, as my late mother used to say  
I can see where he's been stitched up  
Probably by my grandmother  
Long before I was born

This bear was given to my father  
In a time before television and computers  
It may have crossed an ocean  
Sat in many boxes over many moves  
Yet somehow it stayed with him  
And now it's with me

It reminds me of the teddy bear on the show M\*A\*S\*H  
The one the character Radar had  
And left with Hawkeye  
Who put it in the time capsule  
And said:  
"For all those who came here as boys,  
And left as men."

I will keep it with me now  
An object that is a link to the past  
And to those who have long gone before me

I will look at it and remember childhood  
Waking up in the dark in the middle of the night  
Wanting to be still and quiet  
Yet needing something to hold on to

Maybe the story of The Velveteen Rabbit is right

When stuffed toys leave us  
They become real in their own world  
Yet they never forget they were loved

May we all never forget when we were loved  
May we all remember holding a soft friend in the night  
May we all remember those who have gone before us

And if something is left behind  
Like this old teddy bear  
May we keep it and cherish it always