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## A Villanelle on Widowerhood and Dementia

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**Cover Page Footnote**

N/A

Poetry

## A Villanelle on Widowerhood and Dementia

Michael J. Leach

*Loddon Mallee Integrated Cancer Service, Bendigo*

He beholds a lady in pure white lace.  
    He remembers a lost loved one  
Whose absence is a well-lit, empty space.

He loves one who had the presence to grace  
    The stage of life in the bright sun.  
He beholds a lady in pure white lace.

He recalls the comfort of their embrace.  
    He can't find that special someone  
Whose absence is a well-lit, empty space.

With age, nothingness begins to replace  
    New recordings and old reruns.  
He beholds a lady in pure white lace.

Clouds of dementia gather to erase  
    His fondest memories, bar none.  
*Whose absence is a well-lit, empty space?*

He opens his memoirs at the marked place  
    Where all battles could still be won.  
He beholds a lady in pure white lace  
Whose absence is a well-lit, empty space.