Concerning Travel

Philip J. Davis

illustrated by
Marguerite Dorian
It's very easy not to go;  
The turbulence of to and fro  
Suffices me to answer no  
And stay at home.

Easy is to cancel out;  
You do not have to yell or shout  
Or suddenly develop gout.  
Just stay at home.
My Uncle Ez, his name revered,
The dripping ice box pan he feared
If he went out would overflow;
Easier much was not to go.

Aunt Dorothy, my uncle's pride
Once crossed the bridge to the city side
'Twas trauma great which she denied
When back at home.

I have good friends who travel much
They've just come back from Spain or such.
"Of great neurosis you're in the clutch;
What keeps you home? "
Will taxi come, will baggage miss
Can I afford a trip like this?
Will sleep be ruined by rubber foam
When goose down waits for me back home?

Will packaged food make hair uncurl
Did I forget to tip that girl
Will I get stuck in Kokomo
When planes refuse to fly in snow?

My bag is packed, my booking's firm;
The cab is here, I start to squirm:
What purpose serves this trip to Rome?
It's better still to stay at home.
Yet three times to Antipodes
Somehow I've managed. Not to sneeze:
Such distances, such daring, Oh
When easier much was not to go.

--- P.J. Davis