

Virus

by Linda Greiner

The silent tempest swirls around my house
As life begins to shrink within the walls.
The cat just sits and swats the catnip mouse
As all we know of life so swiftly falls.

Prospero's magic pales in strength to this.
The shipwrecked victims drown in stormy seas.
Enchantment rescues no one--vast abyss.
Miranda's brave new world knocked to its knees.

So small, we stand in awe, so large we shrink.
The mystery of origin, the cause,
The *whys*, the *can'ts*--they lead us to the brink,
The frenetic movements of life on pause.

The welcome mat withdrawn, closing of the door
To dream of brighter days, when spirits soar.