

To Beth, age 18, from her Dad, Jim Reese

ODE TO BETH ON ATTAINING ADULTHOOD

Today you are eighteen
impossible but true
wonderfully true
because
wonderfully you.

You
a product of love
God's
and ours.

You
a special creation
unique
among the world's billions
unduplicated
from eternity past
to eternity future.

You
a reflection of God's glory
a demonstration of His grace
a vehicle of His Spirit
because a willing recipient
of His full salvation
provided by Jesus Christ.

We were blest
to be entrusted with your care
to see
your first smile
your first step
to feel your soft cheek
your clutching grip
to hear your cry
your laughter
your song
your prayer
to share
your thoughts
your feelings.

We watched you
grow
experiment discover
study learn
analyze choose
discard keep
thrive on challenge
seek the best
plan capture
excel.

Now you are beyond us
equipped to stand alone
a prime candidate
to stand with another
to hold your own beloved
in God-appointed time.

Now you are beyond us
yet never out of touch
always flesh of our flesh
always at home at our home.

Now you are beyond us
yet not beyond Him
Who is always there
to guide protect
teach correct
strengthen satisfy
fulfill.

What can we do now?
We still can
watch listen
pray rejoice
anticipate
all you shall become
all He shall do in you
and through you.

Love continues
His
and ours.

--Your Mom and Dad