

Part II

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HEAR OUR FAMILIES

*"My house is no longer
the fun-loving family place
it used to be.
It is cold and empty."*

Kristen Stoll

John Terninko

LOVE POEMS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Ask

Be with me, that is all I ask.

On this journey from here to there,
I am all alone.
Be with me, that is all I ask.

Alone we must be.
We each have our own mission.
Be with me, that is all I ask.

A friend to hug,
A friend to share my steps forward
and back.
Be with me, that is all I ask.

Someone to cry with,
Someone to reflect with.
Be with me, that is all I ask.

Someone to plan with,
Someone to dream with.
Be with me, that is all I ask.

When I finally arrive.

Then what?

Do I cast you off like some
Old toy? No, you are not a toy,
You have a journey too.

I am with you now, old friend
And will be, if you ask.

John Terninko lives in Nottingham. He wrote "Ask" about two months after his wife, Maggie, died. The poem represents Maggie speaking about John's presence before she died and her continued presence with John after she died. The poem is from his book, Love Poems and New Beginnings.