

Poetry Series

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**- poems -**

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# I Am The Disabled Adult

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Author: Garth Wheeler  
I am the ADULT who cannot often pity me, I see it in your wonder how much I am aware of — I see that as well.... I am aware of much, whether you are happy or sad or fearful, patient or impatient, full of love and desire, or if you are just doing your duty by me. I see it in your eyes, I marvel at your frustration, knowing mine to be far greater, ... for I cannot express myself or my needs as you cannot conceive my isolation, so complete it is at times. I do not gift you with clever conversation, cute remarks to be laughed over and repeated. I do not give you answers to your everyday questions, responses over my well-being, sharing my needs, or comments about the world about me. I do not give you rewards as defined by the world's standards — great strides in development that you can credit yourself; I do not give you understanding as you know. I give you is so much more valuable — I give you instead opportunities to discover the depth of your character, not mine; the depth of your love, your commitment, your patience, your abilities; the opportunity to explore your spirit more deeply than you imagined possible. I drive you further than you would ever go on your own, working harder, seeking answers to your many questions with no answers. I am the ADULT who cannot talk. I am the ADULT who cannot world seems to pass me by so quickly it is see the longing in my eyes to get out of this chair, to run and play like other is much you take for granted. I want the things on the shelf, I can't go to the bathroom, oh I need to be changed, Oh I've dropped my fork again. I am dependent on you in these gift to you is to make you more aware of your great fortune, your healthy back and legs, your ability to do for times people appear not to notice me; I always notice them. I feel not so much envy as desire, desire to stand upright, to put one foot in front of the other, to be independent. I give you awareness. I am the ADULT who cannot walk. I am the ADULT who is mentally Challenged. I don't learn easily, if you judge me by the world's measuring stick, what I do know is infinite joy in simple things. I am not burdened as you are with the strife's and conflicts of a more complicated gift to you is to grant you the freedom to enjoy things as a child, to teach you how much your arms around me mean, to give you love. I give you the gift of simplicity. I am the ADULT who is mentally Challenged. I am the disabled ADULT. I am your teacher. If you allow me, I will teach you what is really important in life. I will give you and teach you unconditional love. I gift you with my innocent trust, my dependency upon you. I teach you about how precious this life is and about not taking things for granted. I teach you about forgetting your own needs and desires and dreams. I teach you giving. I teach you Loving And

Caring Most of all I teach you hope and faith.I am the disabled ADULT.....i Am the disabled ADULT who could not talk, I Am the disabled ADULT who could not walk, I Am the disabled ADULT that could not see. I am the disabled Adult who is fiscally and mentally Challenged....I AM THE DISABLED ADULT.

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