

IMPRESSION

MY FATHER'S KNOWLEDGE
GUIDED ME THROUGH ADOLESCENCE
TEASPOON TO MARRIAGE
DADDY GROOMED PATHS TO FOLLOW

HE TAUGHT WITH HIS HAND
AGAINST DENIM JEANS-
LESSONS MONEY CANNOT BUY

ONE DAY HIS LIPS TURNED PURPLE
AND HIS WORDS GREW FAINT TO THOSE
AROUND THE HOSPITAL BED - THEN

LIFTING HIS HAND ONE MORE TIME
AS IF TO SAY GOODBYE
HE CLOSED HIS EYES
TO A WELL FED FAMILY OF FIVE

JAMES COLLINS "93"