

Clothing

by Jim Gold

God sat on his throne. He spoke to man:
"Man, I want to take a look at you. Take off your clothing."
Man took off his shirt. "That's not enough," God said.

Man took off his shoes and socks.

"Still not enough. More!"

Man took off his pants. He stood in his underwear before
God. "More!" God roared. "Reveal yourself. Remove it all!"

Man removed his underwear. He stood naked before
God. "Don't play with me!" God thundered. "Remove it all!"

Man trembled. He fell to his knees before his Maker.

"Lord," he cried, "I stand naked before you. What more can I do?"

A deafening command rolled through the universe. "Use your imagination!
Remove it all!"

What did the Lord mean? Fueled by fear, man's imagination began to work.
Suddenly an idea seized his mind. Quickly he stepped out of his skin, drained his
blood, and removed his bones.

He stood before God only in spirit.

God looked at man. He said: "Man, you look like me."

Man looked at himself. "You're right, God. I feel like you too."

Then they embraced.

—from *Handfuls of Air*

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