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## Count Your Blessings

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*Mark Rubin*

## Count Your Blessings

I have outlived my friends' blessings:

may you skip standing butt-naked  
sideways before the mirror in the bathroom.

May you not say, *There but for  
the grace of God go I*, at the sight  
of a snapping turtle crossing the road.

May you stop trying to force  
“with malice and cause  
I blacked his eye” into a villanelle.

May you not dress like a schlub  
in Witness Protection.

May you be driven to write without  
complaining, like Sisyphus with  
rotator cuff tears and a bum knee.

May you drink from the glass  
half full, and not feel cheated.

May you remember the heft  
of two warm water balloons  
in your palms.

May you not overwrite the wedding vows,  
or worse, invite Pulitzer Committee Members  
to the reception.

On your wedding night in bed,  
may you not think it endearing to say,  
*Unequivocally, them are good.*

When you are putting on the woo,  
may you not think corn chips  
and cantaloupe are aphrodisiacs.

Jeezum Crow, may you know when to shut up.