

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

2006

The experts in astronomy
announced it on the BBC:
“Tonight we’ll see a meteor shower
with eighty meteors per hour!
It comes this time in every August.”
That, at least, is what they promised.

They said if we were serious
to look northeast, toward Perseus.
They said the moon was far too bright
so if we want to watch tonight
wait ’til it sets at half-past four.
“Do stay up late - you’ll see lots more.”

I got my lounge, blankets, tea
a radio for company;
set my alarm for four-fifteen
(it’s true, that hour is obscene).
When it went off, I woke my kids:
“Come out and see the Perseids!”

“We don’t see anything,” they cried,
then half asleep, went back inside.
I can’t be sure if they exist
’cause all I saw was clouds and mist;
but if they’re coming back next year
you can bet that I’ll be here.

EPILOG – 2007

Retrieved the lounge, blankets, tea;
the kids stayed in to watch TV.
The sky was clear, the moon was new
the Perseids were overdue.
An hour passed, I searched the sky
then in the corner of my eye
I think I saw one overhead.
I thanked the Lord and went to bed.