

Ecclesiastical Check

Richard Wiman

White pawn moves
forward two steps
onto an open square.
A black knight in grace
jumps over his men
to conquer the lonely pawn.
A white bishop up and stands
behind the pawn
in protection of the rank.
In the twelfth move
a pawn is offered
to advance the bishop
for the defense of the king.

RICHARD WIMAN is a Swedish-American poet whose poetry is a synthesis of the geography of the Great Basin, Swedish culture, and Shoshoni Indians.