

## THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

There's an elephant in the room.  
It is large and squatting,  
so it is hard to get around it.

Yet we squeeze by with,  
"How are you?" and, "I'm fine,"  
and a thousand other forms of trivial chatter.

We talk about the weather;  
we talk about work;  
we talk about everything else—  
except the elephant in the room.

There's an elephant in the room.  
We all know it is there.  
We are thinking about the elephant  
as we talk together.

It is constantly on our minds.  
For, you see, it is a very big elephant.  
It has hurt us all, but we do not talk about  
the elephant in the room.

Oh, please, say her name.  
Oh, please, say "Barbara" again.  
Oh, please, let's talk about  
the elephant in the room.

For if we talk about her death,  
perhaps we can talk about her life.  
Can I say, "Barbara" to you  
and not have you look away?



For if I cannot,  
then you are leaving me alone  
in a room—with an elephant.

--- Terry Kettering

