

Paul's Wonderful Paddle  
(or the power of suggestion)

Let me tell you a tale of the day that I spent  
Canoeing with Paul, and how it all went.

Our purpose was trying his new paddle out.  
Of its super performance, he had not a doubt.

The salesman had said that the bend in the shaft  
Would result in canoeing that's easy and fast.

Since Paul seemed so pleased with the outlay he'd made,  
I hadn't the nerve to ask what he'd paid,

But the high-tech design, scientifically bent,  
Supposedly made it worth every last cent.

So we went for a spin around Lake Lucerne,  
Paul in the bow, and I in the stern.

When we came to the end and beached our canoe,  
Paul's first remark was, "Wow, we really flew!"

And he said we could have gone for many miles more,  
Since his arms were not tired, his shoulders not sore.

Well, I hated to tell what I'd seen all along,  
So I kept it a secret, what clearly was wrong.

The blades of bent paddles have a front side and back,  
But it seems that the salesman had not explained that.

For all the while o'er the water we flew,  
Paul's wonderful paddle he'd used wrong side to.