

**Family Visits with an Elder**  
**by Lenett Partlow-Myrick**

No one dares tell Uncle J  
it's 2022 and all his  
warped mildewed  
Al Greene albums  
are old

Cousin Babe and I argue over  
what came first  
the record player or the records  
Uncle J or the house  
it's all old

old wood, old walls, old air  
whisps of Auntie Lou's  
Fleur de Fleur parfume  
flitter through Uncle J's recall  
those parties and cookouts we had

Babe and I remember  
their harmony  
those hoarse and tender songs  
they sang so sweetly out loud  
*Oooo baby let's stay together\**

No one has the heart to ask Uncle J  
why he keeps her framed picture  
on the broken recorder player  
in a corner where  
he never dusts

*\*From "Let's Stay Together" by Al Green circa 1972*  
Previously published in *Passager*, 2022