The Silent Ember
By Nicole Winans

Fire.
   A single spark ignites the flame.

Words.
   A single voice acts just the same.

Fire.
   When controlled can bring joy,
       if untended can destroy.

Words.
   When positive can comfort the heart,
       if negative can tear apart.

Fire.
   Although it happens in a flash,
       everything is consumed and turned to ash.

Words.
   Slip from the mouth with no time to react,
       once said-- cannot be taken back.

Fire.
   The burns bring immense pain.
       Scars-- forever remain.

Words.
   The hurt caused may never heal,
       forever changing the way one feels.

Fire-- Words.
   On both keep a close, watchful eye,
       and happiness will surely multiply.