

The Meanings Changed

Peter Hammill

From the first word that I said to the last
Some strange echo remains
Imprinted in the walls
Recorded in the vaults
We talked and tunneled through
But the meanings have all changed.

Because of all I said
You began to regard me as strange
Until with some relief
You suspended disbelief
I tried to tell the truth
But my meaning was all changed.

I saved one final word
To pay off this long sentence in spades
But what I thought I said
Was patently misread.
The spoken word
Is broken here
And in between the two of us
The meaning is all changed.