

Before the Launch

What lived through tests is not by that made right.

Before the launch, bring every warning light,
A hidden flaw may kindle public flame;
What lived through tests is not by that made right,
Nor make the doubting engineer bear blame.
A pattern of small scars, once plainly shown,
Can turn a narrow margin into strain;
It will not grow safe because the years have flown,
While haste consumes the strength you need to gain.
Let independent eyes inspect the scars,
And test the fix in conditions of the flight;
Record dissent, constraints, and hidden bars,
For candor keeps a brittle launch upright.
Choose readiness when haste exacts its cost,
For trust and team may not be found when lost.