

## PVS

by Rick Benjamin (for Nancy & Maggie Worthen)

They will tell you  
that a Persistent  
Vegetative State

is wakefulness  
w/o awareness &  
also that this is a

legal gray area  
which is no small  
matter when it is

your daughter they  
are talking about.  
For them etymology

is beside the point  
so they don't tell you  
to persist, (14th

century, from the latin)  
persistere,: "to continue  
steadfastly," or even to

vegetate (1605: again  
from the latin) vegetare:  
"to grow as plants do" &

'to enliven, to animate.'  
Could mere language  
cause you to question

the state she's in, her (1225)  
"manner of standing," or  
(1538) "mental or

emotional condition"  
of which she is said  
by them to have neither?

To say nothing of mystery  
(ancient Greek): "a secret  
rite" when she passes, after

two years, out of the state  
where she's been hiding  
with her vegetative eyes

tells you she's been here  
all along, persistently  
trying to communicate

everything she's learned  
of mind, body, spirit.  
Where she's been

living is anyone's guess,  
&, even to them,  
a mystery.