

## Employees Must Wash Hands

He comes home earlier than promised  
From an outing that had paled, failed,  
And finds, on entering the house,

His father, panting, answering  
The noise he'd made on coming in—  
To hear, some moments earlier, theirs.

This is no basic primal scene—  
That old cliché—you see. (I was  
No child; well, —but that's another

Matter.) It's that he thinks, and later,  
Reasonless, that what he'd walked in  
On (considering their ages and their

States of health) was their last  
Tryst—discovered, interrupted,  
Stopped, their all-too-final joy.

JOHN DITSKY