

## HERMIT'S LONGEVITY?

*Leland Jamieson*

Yes, garlic drew the bachelor cook  
away from his absorbing book,  
cajoling him: Rise, cook a mess  
of vegetables with real finesse,  
by topping off your eight-quart pot  
with four crushed bulbs of it—a jot.

His breakfast garlic, much like slaw—  
two cloves or more, sliced crisp and raw—  
topped off Alaskan salmon, cold.  
Thus he kept warm, and died quite old—  
because it made his blood run thin?  
Or staved off neighbors, and his kin?

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