

The Asker's Reply

(by Robert W. Bryant)

When I saw an old friend a few days ago,
I asked "How are you?" really wanting to know.
He responded, very slowly, saying "Oh, I'm OK."
I could see that was not true, so what do I say?

Trying to cheer up with "You look pretty well."
It may be possible he is, but I really can't tell.
If I say "You look good," he'll know it's a lie.
That's not a good end to a, maybe, final "Goodbye."

Best to be honest, say something that's true.
One answer could be "I'm hanging in there, too."
The part with a hug and a smile for your friend,
All things in this life come too soon to an end.