

When Love Strikes

I awoke this morning
with the world in my heart
Far-reaching skies of sun-dipped clouds
the vaulted ceilings for stirring vale and forest
and vast oceans surging toward the shore
silver-backed dolphins cresting the waves like the sea's beaded and dazzling joy
How many of you have known this fullness?
Shaken off the night and so, too, the cloak of too many despondent musings
and the troubles that wear thin your finest soles
Today you move like a song lifting the ordinary with its delicate verse
your eyes alight with some new wonder —
the memory of the hand that reached so softly for your sleeping form
and untangled the knots of your yearning
to weave moonbeams in your hair
now a gilded frame for your consciousness
while in the mirror lingers the stardust
of the lips that soothed your burdened brow
And so you greet this day with a brave translucence
the smile that has flown from an uncaged hope
and hands that have unclenched
to learn a dangling trust
Do not be deterred by the razor's edge
or the crow's portentous call
Make this your prayer of gratitude
Where you would hoard this fresh contentment
and seal yourself from the one who has been more thorn than fragrant bloom
strike a match
Love's awakening demands a conflagration
There is no selectivity when the Beloved's gaze has found yours
and kindled your heart
to a wild and raging tenderness

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