

*ON THE DEATH OF THE BELOVED*

Though we need to weep your loss,  
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts  
Where no storm or night or pain can reach you.

Your love was like the dawn  
Brightening over our lives,  
Awakening beneath the dark  
A further adventure of color.

The sound of your voice  
Found for us  
A new music  
That brightened everything.

Whatever you enfolded in your gaze  
Quickened in the joy of its being;  
You placed smiles like flowers  
On the altar of the heart.  
Your mind always sparkled  
With wonder at things.

Though your days here were brief,  
Your spirit was alive, awake, complete.

We look toward each other no longer  
From the old distance of our names;  
Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath,  
As close to us as we are to ourselves.

Though we cannot see you with outward eyes,  
We know our soul's gaze is upon your face,  
Smiling back at us from within everything  
To which we bring our best refinement.

Let us not look for you only in memory,  
Where we would grow lonely without you.  
You would want us to find you in presence,  
Beside us when beauty brightens,  
When kindness glows  
And music echoes eternal tones.

When orchids brighten the earth,  
Darkest winter has turned to spring;  
May this dark grief flower with hope  
In every heart that loves you.

May you continue to inspire us:  
To enter each day with a generous heart  
To serve the call of courage and love  
Until we see your beautiful face again  
In that land where there is no more separation,  
Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,  
And where we will never lose you again.