

Rendezvous with the Beloved

poems of longing, surrender and joy

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Preface

The word *Rendezvous* comes from old French and literally means “present yourselves”. So, in that manner, the title of this collection symbolizes the act of our conscious surrender to the Beloved Divine Presence.

I never intended to write any of these poems. Nonetheless, these poems came to me during the early morning hours beginning in late 1999 and continuing through early 2000, and would not let my mind rest until I wrote them down.

Some were difficult to put into words, since it is all too easy to wander all around the meaning and mask the intent with a heap of inadequate words, but these ideas deserved simplicity and clarity without a clutter of words.

It may be helpful to read each poem twice... the first time reading for the analytical mind and then a second time listening quietly with the heart.

These poems are a celebration of our divine right, our eternal need, to dance, sing and frolic arm-in-arm, hand-in-hand, eye-to-eye with the Beloved. Yet even more, they call us to take action, to become That Which We Are.

As Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi wrote:

“... arise, for the day of work has come...”

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As We Depart

You, and I, and the Beloved
becoming One.

As we depart,
the Beloved enters.

Our separation dissolves,
walls crumble,
and only the Beloved remains.

While the Carpenter Works

The Beloved is building a new Home here.
Take off your shoes and come in.

Old walls are being ripped down,
new foundations poured.

Let's celebrate, sing songs,
laugh and dance
while the Carpenter works.

The Basket and the Candle

I've hidden Your Candle
under my basket.

Oh Beloved, burn this basket,
Burn...
Burn it...
Burn it completely.

Leave nothing for me to be
but The Flame itself.

Entwined

You
and I
and the Beloved,
entwined.

We can grow like this,
entwined,
you
and I
and the Beloved.

Laughing, loving,
you
and I
and the Beloved.

Try, Try Again

Oh Beloved,
Your Sweetness
has changed me forever.

On my way Home,
trying to recollect Your Truth,
I have stumbled and fallen,

but when I awaken,
there You are,
laughing joyfully at my clumsy attempt,

urging me to try, try again,
without fear, to
reach the Heart of Your sweet Love.

Touch

I love to touch you,
to caress your cheek,
to hold your body close to mine.

So alive,
and free,
quivering with Joy.

I feel the heart
of the Beloved
when we touch,

When the press
of skin to skin
simply becomes Touch,

When touching and
being touched
become One.

Shining Heart

The moon tonight
is a Shining Heart,

The twinkling stars
are full of Laughter,

I hear Your voice
in the stillness,

I feel Your touch
in the air.

Seeds We Have Sown

On every path,
 in every journey,
 through all of life,
there is nothing but the Beloved.

There is no other reality,
 there is no other source,
 there are no other arms to be held in,
there is nothing but the Beloved.

There is nothing but the Beloved,
 giving us
 the fruit of
 the seeds we have sown.

If you don't like the fruit,
 plant some different seeds.

Fingertips of God

We are the fingertips of God,

Divine fingertips,
 touching,
 feeling,
 caressing.

The fingertips that
 God uses
 to touch this world.

Better Yet

It's wonderful to
dance in honor of the Beloved,
better yet to be Dance.

It's wonderful to
share the joy that you feel,
better yet to be Joy.

It's wonderful to
sing and praise the Beloved,
better yet to be Song.

It's wonderful to
spread your wings and soar,
better yet to be Wings.

Be Filled

Beggars,
we are all beggars.

Some beg for
their favorite pain,
some beg for
their old friend sorrow.

Beggars,
all alike.

I too am a beggar,
seeking Food.
And now, this bowl is
overflowing with the Beloved.

Destiny

Who can deny the miracle of finding each other
in this maze of 6 billion humans?

Who can understand just how amazing
this is?

Kismet. Destiny.

A field of possibilities.

I see the Beloved in your eyes,

I watch the Beloved in your grace,

I feel the Beloved in your touch,

You and I and the Beloved, One.

Arms of the Beloved

Whichever way you, drunken, totter and fall,
on your meandering way Home.

Have no fear, you always land
in the arms of the Beloved.

Arms of the Beloved II

Whichever way you, drunken, totter and fall,
through whatever you see,
Gardens
or
Hell,
it is your way Home.

Set your heart free,
turn off the chatter of your mind.
Play without fear.
Soar without fear.
Fall without fear.
You will land in the arms of the Beloved.

The Perfect Place to Drown

It takes some pain and anguish now and then
to help me remember
how much I need You.

I feel Your Love, Your Grace, Your Glory.
You are all that I want,
all that I need,
all that I am.

Let me be a fountain,
bubbling over with your Sweet Love,
overflowing, drenching everything

in a flood of Love,
a river of Understanding.
The perfect place to drown.

One Flame

Our tears are all One Tear,
 Our joy is all One Joy,
Our laughter is One Laugh,
 Our love is all One Love.

We are many candles,
 burning with One Flame.

Waves

Through the night,
 waves rolling in,
 waves rolling out.

Warm, wet love,
 churning, swirling,
 rolling in,
 rolling out.

Waves of passion.
 Soft warm touch,
 A feast of sensations.

Waves of Ecstasy,
 rolling in,
 rolling out.

Celebrate

My heart laughs and sings songs with You
but so few ears can hear.

I dance and spin and soar with You
but so few eyes can see.

My fingers reach and touch You
but so few are able to feel.

I smell Your Fragrance on the wind
but so few yet notice.

My tongue is alive with Your Sweetness
but so few have tasted.

Oh my Beloved,
how I long for companions to celebrate
Your Love, Your Grace, Your Mercy.

Waiting

Riding around on the carousel,
around and around
and around and around,
captured by the illusion of progress.

A small voice suggested:
“Give up on this carousel.
Give up separation.
Give up illusions.”

Accept life
in the arms of the Beloved,
live in Love,
live in Joy.”

And there was the Beloved,
patiently waiting,
awaiting love,
awaiting surrender.

Today

I looked for You today, Beloved,
and I found You **are** Today,
You **are** This Moment,

I looked for You today, Beloved,
and I found You everywhere.

Each, Alone

We help each other discover a path,
We help each other travel the path,
Yet each must walk alone on their personal path,
Each must surrender alone, in private.

No one else can surrender for us,
No one else can take away the separation
that we have chosen.

No one else can surrender for us,
No one else can take away the pain
that we have chosen.

Oh Beloved, I walk alone,
empty,
into Your arms.

Each in their own time,
into Your arms.

Each in their own way,
into Your arms.

Each, alone, one by one,
into Your arms.

Each, alone, by their own desire,
into Your arms.

Each, alone, one by one,
into Sweet Surrender.

Sweet Surrender

| thought | was the pilot,
 | thought | was in command,
 | thought | could imagine,
 | thought | could dream.

Oh Beloved,
 when | asked You to guide me,
 to change me,
 to destroy me,

| found You
 could imagine Opportunities
 beyond words,

| found You
 could Dream
 beyond description,

| was limitation,
 You are Freedom.

| was the jailer,
 You are the Key.

Even Closer

No, we are not mirrors of each other.

We are even closer than that.

Friends,

companions,

lovers,

all.

We are

a part of each other,

waiting to be discovered,

accepted,

and loved.

Here, Now

To succeed,
stop trying.

To discover,
stop searching.

To see,
stop looking.

Does water search
for its wetness?

Be what you are.

Friends and Lovers

Friends and lovers can help you
get a glimpse of the Beloved,

Friends and lovers can take you
to the threshold of the Door,

Friends and lovers can help you
recall the radiance of the One Heart,

Yet when the time comes for surrender,
you must enter the chamber alone, empty.

Alone so that you may be Joined,
empty so that you may be Filled.

Beautiful World

Oh, Sweet Love,
thank You for
the opportunity to walk
alongside this beautiful woman.

She sees You,
then she makes love to me.

Oh,
what a Beautiful World.

Shine

Can you feel it?

You're a twinkling star
in the sky of the Beloved.

Shine,

shine brightly,
the heavens deserve your Brilliance.

Lovers Forever

We
have been
Lovers forever.

Yet,
we are just now
discovering it.

Yes, we
have been
Lovers forever.

Yet,
we have just
met.

There is a Place

There is a place
beyond sorrow,

There is a place
beyond suffering,

There is a place
beyond desire,

Open your heart,
and fall in.

The Middle Path

It's all a matter of balance and intent,
staying on this path, the middle path,
that so few choose to walk on.

One foot anchored in the physical,
one hand reaching for that which is unseen,
living in the center between.

Giving and receiving with Grace
in both worlds,
yet attached to neither.

The Puppeteer

Encounters.

Opportunities.

Not by accident,
but by the Grace
of the Great Puppeteer.

Like so many finger puppets,
all of us,
frolicking on the fingers of the Beloved.

Dancing and singing,
all of us,
to the songs and the calls of the Beloved.

Joyful dancers and reluctant dancers,
all of us,
frolicking on the finger tips of the Beloved.

Nowhere

In the arms of the Beloved,
everywhere and nowhere,
everything and nothing,
all become the same.

I am the breeze

Oh Beloved,

Your sweet surprises are
beyond my imagination.

Moments ago,

I was so small,
yet in this moment
I have no boundaries.

I am the breeze dancing across a pond,

I am a falling leaf, floating, tumbling.

I am a child at play, laughing,

I am the smallest petal of a tiny flower.

I am a cloud drifting across the sky,

I am the bird's morning song.

We are,

here,

now,

One.

No Walls Here

Today I found myself walking
on the hands of God.

In God's hands,
there are no walls,
there are no borders,
there are no fences,
there are no boundaries.

Can you live like that?

You are the Song

Oh Beloved,

I am a bird,
You are the Song.

I am a finger,
You are the Touch.

I am a bell,
You are the Sound.

I am a bowl,
You are the Food.

Be Who You Are

In the end, I shall not be asked
why I was not Moses,
or Siddhartha, or Jesus.

But only why
was I not
Richard.

Through Us

To be a servant of God is

to let Divine Light
shine through us,

to let Divine Beauty
be seen through us,

to let Divine Joy
be felt through us.

Alchemy of the Heart

To abandon the battlefield
of separateness,

and live without boundaries,
freely giving and receiving Love,

is the ultimate
Alchemy of the Heart.

Oh Beloved

Oh Beloved,
You are my Food,
my Healing,
my Destiny.

Where the Two Worlds Meet

We are like a flame,
flickering at the crossroads,
marking this place where two worlds meet.

Two worlds,
physical
and spiritual.

Two worlds,
seen
and unseen.

Two worlds,
one governed by Law,
one governed by Love.

Two worlds and one flame,
as we learn to give and receive
freely in both worlds,
without attachment or expectation.

The Essence of Love

As expectations
and judgments
crumble into
unconditional acceptance,

we discover
the essence
of Love.

On the Path

Sometimes it takes intense pain,
sometimes baffling confusion,
sometimes great loss,

To show so clearly
that we are
not in control.

These are the sour fruit that arise
from the seeds
that we alone have sown.

As we begin to accept
our complete dependence
upon God,

We are
on the path
of surrender,
the path of Peace, Love and Joy.

Closer to Thee

Every day I push
and yank
and bang
on the walls of this cage.

Gradually the cage walls yield
and I move
just a bit
closer to Thee.

Nothing else matters.

All This and More

I see the wings of a thousand angels
 hovering all around,
 just waiting
 to be called into action.

And a thousand suns
 in the sky,
 just waiting
 to light the path.

And a thousand stars
 ready to twinkle with laughter and joy,
 just waiting
 for permission.

And the Hand of the Beloved
 alongside,
 just waiting
 to be recognized.

All this and more, just waiting
 for complete surrender,
 that moment when the past is cut loose
 and The Present is lovingly embraced.

Desires

Angry?

Afraid?

Troubled?

Worried?

Rise above

self centered craving,

on the wings of

Patience and Appreciation.

Happiness

requires action

without self-centered desire.

Happiness

is rooted in contentment,

aware of our blessings,

appreciating what is.

The Ocean

There is a
magnificent Ocean,

Where
the more you swim
the more you drown,

And
the more you drown
the more you love.

We

Birds in flight,
leaves fluttering,
We.

Children at play,
raging rivers,
We.

Glowing moon,
twinkling stars,
We.

White clouds,
green fields,
We.

Warriors,
Angels,
We.

No boundaries,
no separation,
We.

Harmony

Actions and thoughts are neither
right nor wrong.

Every action, every thought
has a time and place.

It's all a matter of
being in harmony with The Moment,

Acting and responding in every moment
with Grace, Compassion and Love.

Climb On

Everyday
the freight train of Change
is rolling through our lives.

We can climb onboard
and ride with the Beloved,
to destinations unimaginable,

Or stand by the tracks
and refuse the opportunity.

Morsels

Morsels of Food
kept falling into my cage.

Bits of Love,
shreds of Understanding.

Little bites of Compassion,
nibbles of Grace.

Yet I never took the time to wonder
where the daily blessings came from.

Oh Beloved,
forgive me.

The Veil

O' Beloved,
I thought You
were so distant from me,
hiding beyond a veil.

Now I see
it's my own veil,
my own lack of clear vision.

Why do I wear this veil
that keeps You distant from me?
Fashion?
Custom?
Habit?

Dancing

Oh sweet surrender,
Your Will, not mine.

Dancing with
The Beloved,

Flowing,
Gliding,
Effortlessly.

You Are

I was so afraid of surrender,
afraid that You weren't really there.

Ahhhhh... but You Are.

Your Will, not mine

Peace,
 Perfect Peace,
found in the midst
 of every moment

nestled comfortably
 in the Arms of the Beloved,

relinquishing illusions
 of control,

gently whispering,
 Oh my Beloved,
 Your will, not mine.

Passion

The currency of life
is passion,
not dollars.

Guide Me

Oh my Beloved,
 You are my Guide,
 You are my Path,
 You are my Journey.

Joy

On your own, find
Joy in your heart.

With the Beloved, find
your heart in Joy.

From the Cradle to the Grave

There's a reason we're here today,
no accident that it's all just this way.

We're traveling from the cradle to the grave,
and lessons in Love are all we save.

Only the Fruit

Words

and other noises
will bear fruit.

Actions

and other restless motions
will bear fruit.

In the end, we will each be Judged,
not by our words or actions,
but only by the fruit which they bear.

Evil

The only evil
is lack of understanding.

Filled Again

Every day, the Beloved
fills our cups
with Love, Compassion and Joy.

We can drink freely,
share it with others,
pour it down the drain,
or just ignore it all.

Yet, every day
our cups are filled again.

Preparation

There is only one Healer,

only one Source of all healing,

everything else is just preparation.

Remembering

In matters of the Heart,
there is nothing new
for us to discover,
there is only remembering.

Everything

To embrace and honor the One,
is to embrace and honor everything..
every person,
every event,
every situation.

Painful Ways

There really are
no problems,

Just painful ways
of misunderstanding
these Gifts.

Bird of Desire

The bird of desire
flies in and out of every life.

Observed from a distance,
grace and majesty,
source of creativity and change,

Held tightly,
claws and beak,
source of unhappiness and suffering.

Tiny Pieces

Me,
 You,
 Mine,
 Yours...

The greatest error
 is to try to divide
 the One
 into tiny pieces.

Relationships

Build your house on solid ground.

Worldly accomplishments are fleeting,
but relationships of the Heart are forever.

The Great Symphony

We are all players in
the Great Symphony.

Play your own part,
and play it well.

The Composer has written
and assigned the parts
all quite perfectly.

Shadows

With The Light at your back,
life is just flickering shadows,
desire and pain.

Turn around and look toward The Light,
shadows disappear, leaving only
Peace, Love and Joy.

Two Ways

Two ways,
but only one leads to happiness...

Some will try to
tell God how to run the world,
demanding this and demanding that.

Others will quietly listen and observe
as The Beloved governs the world,
accepting this and accepting that.

Your choice...

Trickster

Oh Beloved Trickster,

I built my home
 in an impenetrable cage,
 fastened my chains,
 and locked my locks,

Yet
 You enticed me out,
 slammed the door behind me,
 and we danced through the night.

Beyond the Ordinary

There are colors beyond
the shades of the rainbow,

sounds beyond
the capture of ears,

feelings beyond
the impression of touch,

delightful visitors
that arrive only
when we have departed.

The Turn

Faces flashing between my fingers,
the floor pressing lightly upon my feet,
voices and music arising from somewhere,
a hand floating, leading me onward, inward.

I somehow know of those things,
yet inside and outside have
become the same,
one Awareness.

Nothing but the Breath
of the Beloved flowing in and out,
Allah, Allah, Allah, Allah...

Turning to a rhythm beyond
the measure of clocks,
a drop floating in
a timeless Ocean.

Seeing without sight,
feeling without touch.
Giving and receiving
have become the same.

A hollow reed,
an empty cup,
and the Endless Sea.

A Flame to Tend To

The 10,000 idiots who live in my head
keep very busy
with their endless chatter.

Urging me to go this way,
go that way,
do this thing,
do that thing.

Let them chatter,
I have more important matters,
I have a Flame to tend to.

Love, Always Love

When in doubt,
Love.

When in joy,
Love.

When in fear,
Love.

When in anger,
Love.

When in happiness,
Love.

When in confusion,
Love.

When in love,
Love.

When in pain,
Love.

Love, always
Love.

I am Your Destiny

I am the light,
I am the shadow,
Kiss me,
Let me burn deep into your heart.

You really have no choice.
I am your destiny.

Heart of Hearts

Everyone I send to you
is My messenger,

listen to
their hearts,

and you will
find My Heart.

Words of the Heart

Painting pictures
with these words,

Images of Grace,
Images of Joy,

A painting of what it is like to be touched
by the Beloved,

A sketch of the majesty
of the Beloved,

Using words to describe
colors that are unseen by eyes,

using words
that remain unheard by ears,

using words
of the Heart.

As Desires Fade

Surrender.

Oh sweet surrender.

As desires fade,
opportunities abound,

As desires fade,
the Beloved provides.

al hamduli'llah
All praise is to God.

La illaha illa'llah
There is nothing to worship, nothing to seek, but God.

tat tvam asi
You are That.

