

DIARY OF A LEAF

One day a quickening came
And I felt a yawning in my soul
Nor did I scance portend
What transformations it foretold.

Ne'er weened from bow
I fathomed neither loss nor care.
My cradle had been fashioned of the air
And tumbled on the bosom of the wind.
So nigh to God and heaven's peerless eye
Each day, its brilliance canonized my veins
And miracles erupted in my cells.
Night's vespers were my whispered lullabies
Her starry cloak
My balmy sanctuary.
I filled my cup from life's swift-thundering fountain
And spilled its silver gift in careless thirst.

DIARY OF A LEAF, new stanza

Until the day
The breeze bent to betray me
Grew rough and tore with claws of glass
Across my withered, brittle frame
Its mild brush
A whirling gale.
I clung with gentle violence to the stem
And to the milk of bliss that had been mine
And oh, the wrenching
Endless ache
I felt
When we did separate!

I fell and fell
From Eden's wall
And sank unto the clay.
A pebble pierced me where I lay.
I suffered its offense.
A blackbird stepped across my breast
And paused to eye a suspect worm.
Beneath my shattered canopy
A pill bug raised its family.
My rusted flesh grew hollows
And without resource to mend
My form was soon disorganized
And lay a jumbled puzzle on the ground.

DIARY OF A LEAF, new stanza

Once arrogance untutored me.
Mistaking wholeness for omnipotence
I held divine
The single entity
Preferred myself – to the majority.
Yet in division of my wealth
Behold, how I am multiplied!
In loss of self – my purpose is inscribed.
Thus humbled now
I am evolved to Legion.
For bit by bit
And mote by mote
My scattered parts did couple with the dust
As memory of my leafhood washed away
And rode the current
Of oblivion.