

A Forever Family

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A Few Words from the Author

The forerunner to “A Forever Family” was “Moments, The Rebirth of a Soul,” which described some of the things I have gone through on my journey to where I am at this moment.

Do I think I have arrived? No, the distant mountains appear no closer today than when I began my journey.

Nor should they. Life is a continuing of progress. If I complete my climb to the top, there would be no more mountains to climb.

A Forever Family

A forever family
Those words of joy you spoke
Ring softly in my mind
Forever
Such a long, long time
Can man conceive of "forever"
A piece of bubblegum, if chewed "forever"
Would dwindle into bits and
Pieces of cavities
And if you wore your first pair of shoes "forever"
Your feet would still be 2 inches long

I hadn't thought of "forever" much
Before I met you, before I learned to love you
Forever was the time I spent in the Navy
Only six years, but definitely "forever"
Then you came along

Never before have I wanted to follow the commandments
As I do now,
Never before have I wanted to spend "forever" with anyone
A week, maybe, or even a month
A few hours, but never a year
And now you talk about "forever"
We can walk through the forest as many times
As we want
Even count the trees, watch the flowers grow
Forever
"Forever" is a long, long time
But I think I will enjoy "forever",
Forever

The Conversation

I got down on my knees last night to pray
I wondered if God really makes house calls
I'm sure He has more important things to do than listen to me
Maybe I'll be put on hold if someone else calls
Besides, I haven't cleaned this room for days
And my soul hasn't been touched for years

I looked at myself and didn't like what I saw
Thoughts of days gone by began to rush over me
I sweltered in the heat of past transgressions
My world darkened with memories long buried

I looked around my little world
If there's anyone who needs this talk, it's me
I am a sinner
I don't care whom you're talking to right now
But he's probably had the line open for years
Open the line from me to you
Of all your children, it's me that needs the help

Father, I may be a sinner, but I'm yours
Do with me as you will
For
I have returned from the wilderness

Keep an eye on me, Father;
I still haven't gotten my soul in tune, yet
Keep in touch with the people who care about me
If you can't get through, they live just down the street
I won't disconnect the phone, again
But you know the phone company
If there's anything I can do, let me know
It's been a long time since I did anything,

I may not know how to start
But, I will be an enthusiastic servant
Thank-you, Father, for letting me get through
I should have called a long time ago.
But I was sort of busy
Now I'm busy with your work

Coincidence

Is it a coincidence we find ourselves together?
Planning for eternity?

Did fate cast down the
Dice of chance, moving us as
Pawns around the gameboard of life?

Or is there more to this
Existence than some chance
Encounter with destiny

I can not help but feel the
Hand of God directing me

A presence small but sure
A left turn here
A right turn there
If not divinely orchestrated
By what power has my life become so enriched?

I, a sinner, stumbling in darkness
Without faith
A bee partaking honey from each flower in the meadow

And like the bee returns to the hive
Burdened with nectar
So must the sinner return to the Creator
Laden with momentary earthly pleasures
The cheaply bartered mortal hours
Dear payment for what might have been

Can it be fate that held
The light for two souls wandering in darkness
Were our footsteps guided to this
Point in time and space
Our hearts and minds prepared
For just this moment
With only the same reason as a coin falls
Heads or tails

Is there some reason
Behind the years of

Pain and sorrow

Or have we been just thrown together like a pile of
Dirty clothes
To see if our colors would fade together

If there is no reason
No plan that we have
Found each other
Our love
Our purpose is a sham

We have come too far for this to be a chance
We have fought too many wars
Lost too many battles
Stumbled too close to the edge of defeat

We have graduated
With honors from the school of
Hard knocks

There are no coincidences in life
If we look to our Heavenly Father
For the roadmap

Our course will be straight and true.
If we call upon Him daily

The boulders in the trail will be as
Pebbles
The raging rivers as but peaceful
Brooks
Refreshing the weary traveler

If Not You, Then

If not you
Then someone else will take your place at my side
Through Eternity

I have faith enough to know
That He will send me someone
If you are not strong enough
To believe in His plan
To know when answers are given

He will find me another
Who will know when the Spirit
Speaks to her
If you do not have faith enough
To know that He will help us through this life

I know that He will find one
Who is equal to the task
Can get down upon her knees in prayer
Requesting guidance
And when the small voice speaks
Be able to understand

I do not doubt my love for you
I do not doubt the answer I've received
The answer that you are the one

But time stands still for no one
If you are not ready for the call
If you cannot exercise the faith required
He will cause the love that grows
To wither and die
It will hurt
But if not you
Then

Where Am I Going?

I know not where
The path that I now travel
Will lead tomorrow
I cannot say where I am going

I will not try to foretell the stops along the way
That is not my concern
He will tell me what to do
He will give me strength to carry out his plan

At last I live in peace
No more defying principles of righteousness
No longer dedicated to my own downfall
A rebellious spirit has returned from the wilderness
Perhaps better for the fight
Embarks upon God's work
With energy once used in self-destruction

I tried it my way
And found no satisfaction
No joy beyond the pleasures
Bartered for with guilt and sin
My soul became a battleground
The dead and dying dreams
Like bodies lying crumpled
In my mind

And still I search for something
That would ease the pain
Obliterate guilt so that I might be free

The answer shines atop a far off hill
He died so we might live
And through His love
We can find comfort
A comfort found through dedication
Of our lives to Him
Beware the price that must be paid
For we must love
And open up our hearts to all
The pain is great
But greater still the end result

As through this life we pass
With Him as our guide

I dedicate my life to Him
My journey here upon this arid plain
Shall be in faith
Let Him communicate with my soul
My only thought is to carry out His plan

Reservations

He alone knows your worth
For He alone knows the real you
Deep inside

He alone hears your prayers
Knows what you want
And need
I see
Too
The good that you are
And what you can become

He has given me a glimpse of your
Potential
You have reservations
Questions of why He has brought us
Together

Do not question Him
Do not feel undeserving of His attention
Do not let the goals overwhelm

He does not expect us to succeed immediately
But we must continue to strive

It is easy to reject the attempt to achieve
When it is assumed that the goal is far out of
Reach

The qualities I possess
Are present because of Him
And you

He has given me the love
The understanding
The sensitivity to your needs
Because He knows you
I am an extension of His love for you

Do not have reservations in
Your love for Him
And do not restrict your love for me

The goals are great
And sometimes seem out of reach
The distance we must travel is far
But do not let inner doubts control your future

It is easy to give up the fight
When there seems to be no chance to win
Do not put reservations on your love for me
Because you feel that you do not
Measure up to my expectations

It is not my expectation of you
That creates fear
It is your own confidence of success

He knows the person you can become
There are no reservations in that woman
Do not place any on yourself

A Mountain

I saw a far off mountain
And thought what challenge it might be
To walk among the towering pines
And see across distant valleys

So I began my journey

But the mountain got no closer
The terrain became more rugged
I realized I was not prepared
For such a task
Still I forged ahead
Watching wearily as my beloved world slowly
Disintegrated around me

My shoes
Purchased for their beauty
Did not hold up against the sharp shale
The clothing that seemed so important
Yesterday
Began to hang limp

Torn by sharp thorns and brambles
It gave no protection to the elements
I often paused to consider the luxuries
I had given up
Waiting so far below

Onward
Ever onward
My body aching at every joint
Unused muscles pulled tight
A soul crying out for release

No
I will not turn back
Although the distance seems as great
As when I started
I know the hilltop offers
Sanctuary never found before
An answer to questions burning deep within

The rocks have bruised tired feet
The shoes of yesterday cast aside
Unusable tatters of a distant life
I stand naked
The clothes so jealously
Acquired long since turned to rags

The chill of night is chased away
Only by inner fires burning for a greater goal
The mountaintop lies still far distant

But I am confident I can scale its cliffs
I have found my guide
He has given me garments
Wrapped up my bleeding feet
Allowing me to lean on Him

With His help
I will climb the mountain

Reflections

The broken mirrors of memories
Reflect disjointed
Fears of days gone by

Yesterday slips in
To haunt tomorrow's dreams

The paths that once were traveled
Cause tears to fall
And spirit to retreat

Mistakes that once seemed trivial
As ghosts
Return to terrorize

Do not lose hope
It is His plan
In Wisdom
He allows repentant souls
To return to Him
But we must make amends
With contrite heart
Reject the past
And through the tears of torment for our wrongs
Be cleansed of all transgression

The way is hard
Each moment filled with doubts
Each hour the memories invade
Reminding of the path once trod

Our minds
In tune with worldly thoughts
Do battle with the heart and soul
That must remain in tune
With Him

How easy it would be
If we could wash away the past
With one small tear
But would the goal be worth
The effort

If it was so easily obtained

I think not
Nor has repentance been established
In such a manner
We get no blessings
Without the toil

A smelting fire requires great heat
To burn off the impurities of metal
We too must be purified
But through an inner fire
That burns with thoughts of what has been

Reflections of the past
Is His way to remind us of the future
But do not let the anguish of yesterday
Tarnish the hopes and dreams of today
Hold tight to the present
Dream of tomorrow
Make your life
A reflection of your inner beauty

Little Things

We walked along the water
Just us three
Alone amidst the crowds enjoying
Beach and sun

No monumental event transpired
But that one day
Will be remembered for all time

We sat around a glowing fire
Just us three
Subdued conversation scarcely breaking
Through the crackling of the logs
A tranquil moment that returns in
Memory
To brighten rainy days

I do not need an earthquake
To bring back thoughts
Of you
The little things
Through love
Become unequalled
In my mind

A simple dinner
Just the three of us around the table
An afternoon's drive
Just the three of us gaily laughing

An evening of quiet meditation
Just the three of us beginning as a family
We knelt in silent prayer
Just us three
Requesting guidance for the dreams
We have begun to build
A little thing
But little things add up to
Love
And years together
Creating memories
Of little things

Deja Vu

I've been here once before
I feel the ghosts of yesterday floating
Beyond my outstretched hands
As I try to grasp at mists

Yes

Once before
But roles have now changed
I stand where someone else has stood
The student now the teacher
The principles learned then with her tears
Now must be learned with mine

The heart that cried with my progression
Views now with humor
That which I am going through
A reckless word has gone before
And now comes back to haunt
Concepts shouted from rooftops
No longer matter
When faith is the key

I know not where my destination lies
I journey with Him as my guide
The paths that I now walk are
His alone to ponder
Will I be able to lead
Through Him
Will I be able to take the hand of
One who wanders in darkness
Show her the way
And allow her to grasp the rod
As I was given the chance to do so long ago

In Return

How can I tell you how much I care
How much I feel

Where are the words to explain
The faith I have in Our Heavenly Father
A faith that He will guide us
A faith that He will give us the answers we need
If only we ask
If we become close to Him
Allow our hearts to hear His word

There is nothing we may not accomplish
But there are no words to tell you
I feel that my love is not compatible
With what you feel and know

You look for crashing cannons
Resounding thunder darkening the skies

The answers He gives do not
Penetrate the shell you've built around your soul
You ask for understanding
But give none in return

You ask for faith
But have not the faith to take the first step
The thoughts you have created
Were meant only to be felt
If you will give something in return

Give your life to Him
Make the commitment that He requests
He will answer you
And give you strength
To fulfill the promises that must be made
To Him

A Choice

I have a choice to make

Not an easy one

I don't really know how to approach
The decision

I recognize that you have come far
But you have not yet begun
To find the
Spirituality
You need to achieve Eternal life

You do not understand
Where
You want to be
Or
How
To get there

Even when you do have all
The facts
You are still
Confused

Not an easy choice
My mind says run
That you are far too weak
To make the grade

My heart says stick it out
That you only need time to clarify
Your thoughts and goals

And so the battle rages within my heart and mind

Am I strong enough to walk away
And realize that I may not return
If you
Somehow
Find the values that you need
Or should I stay

Preparing all the while
To hear you say that you are not yet ready for
Eternal love
And all the time together
Has been wasted

Or has it

You may have learned a simple fact or two
About yourself
And your relationship to God
And I have gained in many ways

It may not yet be time to run away

I know not what tomorrow has in store
I have a decision to make
Not an easy one
It can wait for one more day

An Answer

It burns within
Emotion swelling to the surface

On trembling knees I ask for guidance
Requesting confirmation of
The love I have for you
Pleading for some sign to tell me that
It is right

I ask for no crescendo
No thunder in the midnight skies
No earthquakes toppling cities
Just answers
Growing
Added upon
Small parts become whole

It was but
A small voice affirming correct choices
Quiet meditation giving birth to
Dreams

The answer is present
Others have felt it
A quieting of emotion
Allowing heart and mind to simply
Let go of dreams held long in hibernation

Another heart was given hope
That 'though our paths will never merge
Her destiny lies distant
Waiting for her steps to reach
That place in time

Far too many answers
To reject His plan
Each one fills my heart
Multiplied by those
Who hold my progress dear

A sympathetic spirit crying out
For fulfillment of dreams

That once were shared
Now must pass to another

It is with love these souls rejoice with me
But cry out in anger
At the intervention of the adversary

It is so clear to me
I feel the Spirit
Guiding feet upon the paths of righteousness
In faith
An answer was given
It is all so clear
That in faith
We must act upon that answer

New Friends

The friends
Of yesterday
No longer exist

I can not reach out to ones I held so close
But few days past
For they do not reflect my growth

We can no longer draw close
No longer will we be able to share
Goals and dreams
We can not sit around a fire
And contemplate tomorrow

My tomorrow is here
Now
The dreams we shared
Yesterday
Have found fulfillment in my life
Today

In new dreams
As I move from one level
To the next higher

The close circle of friends
Begins to diminish
As in a pyramid
So broad at the base
But contracting sharply as it rises

As we search out those
With whom we feel comfort
The numbers diminish
As each level we climb

Old friends no longer exist
It is time to go forward with
New friends

The Right Time

It seems that we have not yet found
The right time
To work together

There are so many things that must be done
Before we can walk hand in hand

We must learn principles
That can only be understood through
Tears and agony so intense
That our very soul cries out for release

It may never be
The right time
For us

But now is
The right time
For me

I must reach inward for the questions
And look upward for the answers

Each waking moment finds
A prayer
To Him above
To give me strength
To learn
What I must learn

The lessons are hard

My heart cries out for you
Or for the gift of forgetting you

And in my hour of need
I look upward
It seems that we have not yet found
The right time
To work together

Alone

We can learn and grow
Begin to understand
If we but ask
And are willing to follow
The answers

The right time to grow
Is now

The right time to learn
Is now

Now
Is
The right time

Make Me Ready

Father

The trials have been hard

The tears that were cried

Came from deep inside

I know I have learned many things

Maybe you have more for me to learn in these lessons

I do not know

I have walked away from someone I thought I needed

Needed with all my heart

But hearing the voice

May be easy

Responding to the call is always difficult

She could not respond

Father

I have learned to love

To feel deep inside

And show those feelings

I have learned sensitivity

To the feelings of my friends

To respond to others with honesty

Now

I might be ready for the next step

Now I might be able to accept responsibility

For a forever relationship

I realize I could not be trusted with

One of your daughters

For I was not able to climb to her level

Until now

Now

I think that I am ready

There is much I have yet to do

But now I know what it is

There is much I have to learn

But now I am able to understand

Father

I realize the responsibility
Of the next goal in my life
Let me have the chance
I promise to try

Answer my prayers

Or

If I am not ready
Make me ready

A Prayer

Dear Father in heaven

Some things I don't have trouble accomplishing on my own
But not this time
No matter which way I turn
Or how often I look inward
I find no solution

I realize I need to turn to you more often
I am trying
It is hard to confess that I need you
No one wants to appear weak

Father
When she and I began to feel
The love sent by you
We tried to reject it
But we could not
We tried to run away
But found we could not forget

So much easier it would be to just walk away
Put her out of my mind and heart
Let the feelings die
Move onward to someone who is closer to you
But
I realize that you would have me learn
Principles I do not yet understand

Father
I know she tries to stay close to you
But she is easily influenced by the things of the world
She is easily turned away from you
Also
She fears failure

And when she feels her goals are out of reach
She just gives up
It is easier not to try
And then just convince herself that she didn't really want it after
All

It is very difficult for me when I feel she is just giving up the fight
I see that she is beginning to feel the truth
But that does not make it easier

Father

I understand there is much that I am supposed to learn by loving her
I know that I have gained understanding and patience
But it is not easy to watch when she seems to want to fall
Flat on her face

I want to be able to give her the strength she needs
The desire to return to you
So
I turn my eyes upward

Father

Help me resist the impulse to try to pull her up
She knows where she wants to be
She can feel the need within her
I know it is now up to only her to accomplish her tasks
Help me to walk away from the confrontations
Allow me to understand her moods
To love her for what she is now
And focus on the future
She has not found Thy love to be a comfortable companion

Give me the love and understanding to remain calm
When she feels that she must reject your principles
She must retain the feeling
That she is in control of her own destiny
And sometimes strikes out in rebellion
Allow me to recognize this side of her
For this was my way not too long ago

Father

For her
I ask Thy understanding of where she is at
Do not judge her too harshly
Give her the patience to teach her son
He is only a mirror of his mother
As she gains in faith
He will follow

Father

Help her to understand herself

She has never walked these paths before
This is all new territory
Nor does she understand her inner feelings
She has been deeply hurt
I know she will eventually find herself
But
Please
Don't make her suffer too long
Open her eyes that she may see inward
Allow her to visualize what she may become
What she can possess
She has little knowledge of Thy plan
Give me the wisdom to teach her
And allow her to understand my words
But

Father
Most important
Don't let me run away from you
No matter how deeply I am hurt
Sometimes I don't think she is worth the effort
But deep inside
I know her potential
I know she is running away from love
And often is not sensitive to my needs
I know her actions are because she wants to
Strike out at what she feels
Are chains upon her life

She feels I am the source of her imprisonment
While she is chained by her dependence on the things of the world
Allow her to understand
That only by following your instructions
May we be truly free
Don't let my faith in you falter because she fails
To see the light
Keep me close to you and her
Let me be available to pick her up when she stumbles

Father
It has not been easy to forgive or forget
But I feel I have forgiven her
Help me keep my jealous heart in check
To overlook her attempts to make me prove my love for her
She often tries to see how far she can go before I will react

Help me ride out my inner storms

Father

I know she expects our relationship to fail

She is unable to love me as much as she wishes because she wants

To protect her heart

Her goal sometimes appears to be the destruction of our love

So she can tell herself that she knew it would fail all along

But Father

I know she needs me

And she knows that she needs me

But needing someone scares her more than any other thought

She needs to feel that she is completely independent

That she needs no one but herself

Not even you

Keep her need for you foremost in her mind

Her heart will follow

But Father

Above all

Do not let me run away from you

Soar or Fall

I am beginning to realize
That I must sit idly by
As you
Soar or fall
I will not be able to give you
The strength that you need
To succeed
It must come from within
I can not present
Spirituality
On a platter
You must live the commandments
Pray
And listen
I was forced to stand on
My own two feet
And though I might have
Stumbled
I find I have the strength
To bear the load
You question your ability
To live as you should
But that is only because
You have never really tried
Your fear of failure
Has kept you from the
Race
We are not required to be perfect
Here on earth
But we are expected to try
That is why we can
Repent
We can make mistakes
Realize our errors
And be forgiven
So
I must sit idly by
As you
Soar or fall
I can not let you see my pain
I want to help
But

You must make the effort
And
I must sit idly by
As you
Soar or fall

A Friend

I had a conversation with a friend last night
I got down on my knees
And told Him all about my love for you

I asked for help
You seem to have difficulty expressing yourself
I often do not know the inner you
Is it because you are afraid to tell me
Or because you do not yet know your heart

I asked our friend to help you understand your feelings
I also asked Him to help me
We have been given an assurance
That we will reach our goals
If we remain in tune with Him
But I sometimes lack confidence in myself
I think I have the strength to succeed
But at times
I rely far too much on the emotional side of our relationship

I do not have confidence in love
Maybe it is because I never loved anyone before you
I thought I did
But I know now that I had not

And you tell me this is the first time you have loved
Neither of us is secure in our commitment
But
We must remember that the most important love
Is our love of Him
And His love of us

Only that love will last
Only that love will provide hope through all our trials
He will not let us fail
He is our best friend

Celestial

Like moths
Drawn to the flame of a
Candle
We are unable to resist
The forces
Pulling us together

In defiance
We reach out for alternatives
But find no joy
No excitement
No future
Only heartache
Longing for what has been

The memories of past defeats
Provide a caution of the future
And in fear
Prevent full measure of the love within
But
Knowledge gained in tears
Will nurture questioned love
And provide
Answers from him above
If we but listen
And if we are willing to set foot upon
The paths that he directs

On bended knee
We search for light to guide a troubled heart

With open mind
Must we obtain the knowledge
That will open doors
And strengthen faith in him above

So clear the goal
But laden with the memories of yesterday
And easily disturbed by actions of destruction
We often find the voices no longer can be heard

The line between success and failure

Is anxiously observed by all concerned with our short time on earth
The hosts of darkness rejoice each time we stumble
While those above softly shed tears of sorrow

But great is the joy He feels
When we find truth and turn toward the path of right

It is not easy
We must walk with dedication and persistent
Commitment

A rocky road awaits us
And like moths
Drawn to the flame of a
Candle
We can grow stronger in love

Cry Tomorrow

You turned your back
On the best you'd ever found
An answer to a prayer
You looked at yesterday
And what you thought you wanted
Found that everything seemed wrong
You tossed away tomorrows hopes
Decided that you couldn't really care
You'll cry tomorrow
Over what you did today
You'll cry tomorrow

You don't understand
Why you kept going back
Needing something
That just wasn't there with anybody else
And now that it's all over
Why can't you just walk away
Forever
You're holding on to what you think you need
But wanting someone else
You'll cry tomorrow
Over what you did today
You'll cry tomorrow

You know where you want to be
And with whom you'd like to spend
Your life
The changes you are making
Will give you the happiness you want
But will your heart give you peace
Let you finally forget
What you left behind
You'll cry tomorrow
Over what you did today
You'll cry tomorrow
I'll cry today

The Stranger

See him standing on a far off hill, a soul
Who's gone astray, a wanderer who's lost his way
A traveler who is searching for the truth
The shadow of eternal hope, a heart
That stands alone once more, no raging fire to warm
Deserted canyons of the fantasies of youth

Like rain, the tears trickle slowly down his cheeks
To fall among discarded dreams, rejected hopes
Castles in the sky lie as broken toys of love
A memory slips slowly in to play among
The ruins of a future that no longer has a plan
No longer can he turn from Him above

He searches crowded closets of his mind
For one more thought of her, then slowly turns
Away from pictures painted long before
The colors slowly fade to gray, the canvas
Ragged now with time, no love to give it life
He feels the tears begin to fall once more

Water colors of his past drift placidly away
The promises left lying in the sun to die
Dreams once vivid slowly turn to black
With a heavy heart, he slowly starts again towards
Some far-off goal.
One foot before the other,
Knowing that he never will be able to turn back

Dreams by the Wayside

The hopes of childhood
Turn into dreams
That shimmer in the setting sun
Glittering castles
Rise majestically
Towering over arid plains of
Discarded thoughts
Faces that once glowed in love
With tears now turn away
Hollow eyes and sunken cheeks
Frowns of dying yesterdays

So easy would it be to reach out
Follow well-trodden paths to destiny
Reject the brambles that so often
Tangled feet and made tatters of
Resolutions

So easy would it be to build upon
The foundations hidden near the surface of
A calloused heart
Find strength in long forgotten faith

No
Not this time
Today's resolutions will
Follow yesterdays
Become
Dreams
By the wayside

Journey

Slowly
Painfully
From the depths of
Darkness
I crawl towards
The light
On bended knee
I dedicate
Again
My soul to truth
Knowing that the yo-yo of my life
May return me to old habits
In agony
I cry for strength to
Once more attempt
My journey

I do not struggle as before
To run away
Although I yearn for freedom
My heart no longer flows with
Resentment
Of what I need to do
I accept my needs
And recognize that I cannot fulfill
My destiny
Alone

A long road back
The journey
That I find myself upon
So easy to discard the goals
Embark upon the pleasures placed before me

Each time I stumble
The return does not take as long
As the time before
Nor is it as painful
To get down on my knees
I might have fallen as far
But do not remain at the bottom as long
The duration in darkness diminishes

Recognition of weaknesses becomes easier
I am willing to let
Him
Direct my
Journey

Each step takes me closer to
Him
And farther
From memories and heartaches
From a former
Journey

The End

More lonely than the endless autumn rain
That beats a slow tattoo upon the walk
Or howling winds about the windowpane
Accompanied by the ticking of a clock

With empty arms and heart more empty still
I sit alone, and lonely in the night
A hollow ache that memories cannot fill
Invades my soul, and tears obscure my sight

No friends, no love, no reason left, hope dies
Life holds no plan, no purpose to be found
There's nothing left, my tortured spirit cries
The writhing shadows hear and mock the sound

Betrayed by one I loved, and left alone
With nothing left but bitterness and tears
The pictures and the memories twist before me
A tortured specter mocking all those years

I find that life no longer holds a meaning
There's nothing left that I can even say
The picture's done, the final curtain's falling
The fire grows cold, and darkness ends the day

Who

Me
Why it is
That I run from me
What am I afraid of
Is it that I might see
The ugly
Inside of me
Outside

I'm sort of pretty
And people think I'm nice
They don't see the me
Inside

They don't see the memories
Or the pain
They see smiles and laughter
Intelligence
Someone
On the way up

They don't know
Me
The ugly
Bittersweet
Pain and sorrow
Hurting
Striking out
Me

Who am I
Do they know
Or do I
Who

The Quest

I am searching
Once
Long ago
In another time
Another sphere
I saw your face
We touched
And knew that we would meet again someday

Along the road
My feet have wandered
Have yours been steadfast on the past
I have been weary and rested on the way
You may have passed me by
I lost my way for a time
And could not find the road

You must be so far ahead
Will you wait for me
Or is someone even now walking in my place

Once I thought I had found you
But it was only a shadowy image that soon turned to ashes

I am searching
For a time I thought my feet were too soiled to walk in your path
Maybe they were
I found an alleyway
Dark and dirty
Did you see me then
Pass me
Standing in the shadows
Were you filled with disgust

Have I lost you
Are you still waiting somewhere
As lonely as I am

My feet have found the path once more
I am running as fast as I can
If only I didn't keep stumbling
Can you wait for me

If I crawl
Can you even hear me crying
Are you still there
Somewhere
Waiting for me
Please
I am searching
Don't let me search in vain

The Light

Last night in lonely darkness I was searching
My lonely seeking heart perceived a light
A tiny little glimmer holding promise
Of dreams come true of wrongs somehow made right

I tried to run to let the light enfold me
I stumbled and I fell and it was gone
The ugly pulsing blackness surges around me
I cried out for help and I found none

My footsteps echo hollow in the emptiness I felt
My cries reverberate from wall to wall
I fall upon my knees in pain and anguish
Please God look down and listen to my call

Then suddenly I knew that I'd been foolish
The light was there but I had closed my soul
I struggle to my feet and stood a moment
I let my gaze rest firmly on the glow

I felt an answering ember light within me
I held it close that it might quickly grow
I knew that He had given the light to guide me
To help me find the path my feet should go

My friend I think you know you hold the candle
And I will follow where your steps have led
The rod is straight and makes a steady handle
The light is coming from the tears that you have shed

Eternal Life

The memories begin to fade
As dreams eternal rise from
Ashes of yesterday
Destiny begins to slowly unfold
Dreams once stored in
Dusty bins
Then pulled from
Long forgotten files
With loving hands are
Placed again in honor on the
Mantle
Whispered words
Through time unused
Begin to echo softly through the
Hallowed walls of
Snow white marble

She came when I was unaware
Not looking at the
Entranceway
Through which she passed
Amid the mists of yesterday
A glow of light
The darkness
Of a questioning heart
In silence
She reached out to
Beckon me to
Paths of truth
Already friends
I see
I feel
I comprehend
The source of light
That guides the dreams
That focuses on forever
A recognition of
Kingdoms
A confirmation of the truth

Eternal glories
Once a hope

Become tangible
As souls touch
Communicate
Visions of tomorrow
Begin to take shape
Through mists of faith

The Path

Yesterday
I could not walk
I stumbled down a path so strewn with
Boulders
My progress was on
Hands and knees
I was blind
My concept of my destination
Only that which ears could hear
So intent upon the ground ahead
I could not see beyond an outstretched hand

Today I stride erect
My path is clear
My knees support my thankful heart with
Prayer
My sight has been restored
My goals are clear before me
The light has pierced
The darkness long my only friend
The destination
So long hidden in clouds of gray
Sits golden on the horizon

No longer do I look upon
The ground
Except to gaze at buttercups
But often on my knees
I give thanks to Him that sent
You
Clarity to my life
And joy
Forever
As we walk the path
Together

For Me

I can not run
With you
My feet are clay
Mired in yesterday's
Memories
I will only
Hold you back
In your quest for
Eternal life
My pace is slow
My steps are short
I stop too often to
Catch my breath
But if you will
Wait
If you will
Give me time
To straighten up my life
Give me time
To balance the books
He will remove the
Weight that holds me back
He will
Cast loose the clay
If you will
Give me your love
I can become what you want
For now
For you
Tomorrow
For me

Next Step

Into my world she swept
And with her smile
Brought life to dreams long dead

On creaking hinges
Opened wide the doors to love
We gaily laughed
And planned for years to come

Within her arms
I realized that I could love

The doubts and fears had vanished
As a morning mist burned off
By rising sun

But it was not to be
The dreams departed

Our love began to die
I tried to bring it back
By being what I thought
She wanted

Like Icarus
I felt my wings melting
Hope dwindling
And now the fire is but a smoldering ember
Without fuel
It could not continue

But I will press on
I will find the faith to go forward
I will not stumble

A Fork in the Road

I seem to have run into
A fork in the road

What happened to the knife
And spoon

Somewhere along the way
I decided I didn't need to
Follow the path I had
Worked so hard to find
I wandered off
Perhaps not too far off
But far enough to lose sight of the
Path I should be on

Can I see the path from where I am now
It's not too far
And I seem to have uncovered
Memories of where I used to be

Am I not on the path because it is
Too hard to follow
Or because I sometimes do not feel
Comfortable walking it
Or is it simply because it seems to take up
Too much time
Is the Super Bowl that important

There is now another
Fork in the road
Go straight
Continue walking my own path
Or return to the
Path
I should be walking