**Like This**

If anyone asks you  
how the perfect satisfaction  
of all our sexual wanting  
will look, lift your face  
and say,

Like this.

When someone mentions the gracefulness  
of the nightsky, climb up on the roof  
and dance and say,

Like this.

If anyone wants to know what "spirit" is,  
or what "God’s fragrance" means,  
lean your head toward him or her.  
Keep your face there close.

Like this.

When someone quotes the old poetic image  
about clouds gradually uncovering the moon,  
slowly loosen knot by knot the strings  
of your robe.

Like this.

If anyone wonders how Jesus raised the dead,  
don’t try to explain the miracle.  
Kiss me on the lips.

Like this. Like this.

When someone asks what it means  
to "die for love," point  
here.

If someone asks how tall I am, frown  
and measure with your fingers the space  
between the creases on your forehead.

This tall.

The soul sometimes leaves the body, the returns.  
When someone doesn’t believe that,  
walk back into my house.

Like this.

When lovers moan,  
they’re telling our story.

Like this.

I am a sky where spirits live.  
Stare into this deepening blue,  
while the breeze says a secret.

Like this.

When someone asks what there is to do,  
light the candle in his hand.  
  
Like this.

How did Joseph’s scent come to Jacob?

Huuuuu.

How did Jacob’s sight return?

Huuuu.

A little wind cleans the eyes.

Like this.

When Shams comes back from Tabriz,  
he’ll put just his head around the edge  
of the door to surprise us

Like this.

**Love is the Water of Life**

Everything other than love for the most beautiful God

though it be sugar- eating.

What is agony of the spirit?

To advance toward death without seizing

hold of the Water of Life.

**A Moment of Happiness**

A moment of happiness,

you and I sitting on the verandah,

apparently two, but one in soul, you and I.

We feel the flowing water of life here,

you and I, with the garden's beauty

and the birds singing.

The stars will be watching us,

and we will show them

what it is to be a thin crescent moon.

You and I unselfed, will be together,

indifferent to idle speculation, you and I.

The parrots of heaven will be cracking sugar

as we laugh together, you and I.

In one form upon this earth,

and in another form in a timeless sweet land.

**Lovers**

O lovers, lovers it is time   
to set out from the world.   
I hear a drum in my soul's ear   
coming from the depths of the stars.

Our camel driver is at work;   
the caravan is being readied.   
He asks that we forgive him   
for the disturbance he has caused us,   
He asks why we travelers are asleep.

Everywhere the murmur of departure;   
the stars, like candles   
thrust at us from behind blue veils,   
and as if to make the invisible plain,   
a wondrous people have come forth.

**All Through Eternity**

All through eternity

Beauty unveils His exquisite form

in the solitude of nothingness;

He holds a mirror to His Face

and beholds His own beauty.

he is the knower and the known,

the seer and the seen;

No eye but His own

has ever looked upon this Universe.

His every quality finds an expression:

Eternity becomes the verdant field of Time and Space;

Love, the life-giving garden of this world.

Every branch and leaf and fruit

Reveals an aspect of His perfection-

They cypress give hint of His majesty,

The rose gives tidings of His beauty.

Whenever Beauty looks,

Love is also there;

Whenever beauty shows a rosy cheek

Love lights Her fire from that flame.

When beauty dwells in the dark folds of night

Love comes and finds a heart

entangled in tresses.

Beauty and Love are as body and soul.

Beauty is the mine, Love is the diamond.

They have together

since the beginning of time-

Side by side, step by step.

**I Swear**

I swear, since seeing Your face,

the whole world is fraud and fantasy

The garden is bewildered as to what is leaf

or blossom. The distracted birds

can't distinguish the birdseed from the snare.

A house of love with no limits,

a presence more beautiful than venus or the moon,

a beauty whose image fills the mirror of the heart.

**Let go of your worries**

Let go of your worries

and be completely clear-hearted,

like the face of a mirror

that contains no images.

If you want a clear mirror,

behold yourself

and see the shameless truth,

which the mirror reflects.

If metal can be polished

to a mirror-like finish,

what polishing might the mirror

of the heart require?

Between the mirror and the heart

is this single difference:

the heart conceals secrets,

while the mirror does not.

**This is love**

This is love: to fly toward a secret sky,

to cause a hundred veils to fall each moment.

First, to let go of live.

In the end, to take a step without feet;

to regard this world as invisible,

and to disregard what appears to be the self.

Heart, I said, what a gift it has been

to enter this circle of lovers,

to see beyond seeing itself,

to reach and feel within the breast.

**Love is Reckless**

Love is reckless; not reason.

Reason seeks a profit.

Love comes on strong,

consuming herself, unabashed.

Yet, in the midst of suffering,

Love proceeds like a millstone,

hard surfaced and straightforward.

Having died of self-interest,

she risks everything and asks for nothing.

Love gambles away every gift God bestows.

Without cause God gave us Being;

without cause, give it back again.

**I Am a Sculptor a molder of form**

I am a sculptor, a molder of form.

In every moment I shape an idol.

But then, in front of you, I melt them down

I can rouse a hundred forms

and fill them with spirit,

but when I look into your face,

I want to throw them in the fire.

My souls spills into yours and is blended.

Because my soul has absorbed your fragrance,

I cherish it.

Every drop of blood I spill

informs the earth,

I merge with my Beloved

when I participate in love.

In this house of mud and water,

my heart has fallen to ruins.

Enter this house, my Love, or let me leave.

**Passion makes the old medicine new**

Passion makes the old medicine new:

Passion lops off the bough of weariness.

Passion is the elixir that renews:

how can there be weariness

when passion is present?

Oh, don't sigh heavily from fatigue:

seek passion, seek passion, seek passion!

**The beauty of the heart**

The beauty of the heart

is the lasting beauty:

its lips give to drink

of the water of life.  
Truly it is the water,

that which pours,

and the one who drinks.

All three become one when

your talisman is shattered.

That oneness you can't know

by reasoning.

**I Am Only the House of your Beloved**

"I am only the house of your beloved,

not the beloved herself:

true love is for the treasure,

not for the coffer that contains it."

The real beloved is that one who is unique,

who is your beginning and your end.

When you find that one,

you'll no longer expect anything else:

that is both the manifest and the mystery.

That one is the lord of states of feeling,

dependent on none;

month and year are slaves to that moon.

When he bids the "state,"

it does His bidding;

when that one wills, bodies become spirit.

**The springtime of Lovers has come**

The springtime of Lovers has come,

that this dust bowl may become a garden;

the proclamation of heaven has come,

that the bird of the soul may rise in flight.

The sea becomes full of pearls,

the salt marsh becomes sweet as kauthar,

the stone becomes a ruby from the mine,

the body becomes wholly soul.

**The intellectual is always showing off**

The intellectual is always showing off,

the lover is always getting lost.

The intellectual runs away.

afraid of drowning;

the whole business of love

is to drown in the sea.

Intellectuals plan their repose;

lovers are ashamed to rest.

The lover is always alone.

even surrounded by people;

like water and oil, he remains apart.

The man who goes to the trouble

of giving advice to a lover

get nothing. He's mocked by passion.

Love is like musk. It attracts attention.

Love is a tree, and the lovers are its shade.

**Love has nothing to do with the five senses**

Love has nothing to do with

the five senses and the six directions:

its goal is only to experience

the attraction exerted by the Beloved.

Afterwards, perhaps, permission

will come from God:

the secrets that ought to be told with be told

with an eloquence nearer to the understanding

that these subtle confusing allusions.

The secret is partner with none

but the knower of the secret:

in the skeptic's ear

the secret is no secret at all.

**When the rose is gone and the garden faded**

When the rose is gone and the garden faded  
you will no longer hear the nightingale's song.  
The Beloved is all; the lover just a veil.   
The Beloved is living; the lover a dead thing.  
If love withholds its strengthening care,  
the lover is left like a bird without care,  
the lover is left like a bird without wings.  
How will I be awake and aware  
if the light of the Beloved is absent?  
Love wills that this Word be brought forth.

**Because I cannot sleep**

Because I cannot sleep  
I make music at night.  
I am troubled by the one  
whose face e has the color of spring flowers.  
I have neither sleep nor patience,  
neither a god reputation nor disgrace.  
A thousand robes of wisdom are gone.  
All my good manners have moved a thousand miles away.  
The heart and the mind are left angry with each other.  
The starts and the moon are envious of each other.  
Because of this alienation the physical universe  
is getting tighter and tighter.  
The moon says, "How long will I remain  
suspended without a sun?"  
Without Love's jewel inside of me,  
let the bazaar of my existence by destroyed stone by stone.  
O Love, You who have been called by a thousand names,  
You who know how to pour the wine  
into the chalice of the body,  
You who give culture to a thousand cultures,  
You who are faceless but have a thousand faces,  
O Love, You who shape the faces  
of Turks, Europeans, and Zanzibaris,  
give me a glass from Your bottle,  
or a handful of bheng from Your Branch.  
Remove the cork once more.  
The we'll see a thousand chiefs prostrate themselves,  
and a circle of ecstatic troubadours will play.  
Then the addict will be breed of craving.  
and will be resurrected,  
and stand in awe till Judgement Day.

**Ode 314**

Those who don't feel this Love  
pulling them like a river,  
those who don't drink dawn  
like a cup of spring water  
or take in sunset like supper,  
those who don't want to change,

let them sleep.

This Love is beyond the study of theology,  
that old trickery and hypocrisy.  
I you want to improve your mind that way,

sleep on.

I've given up on my brain.  
I've torn the cloth to shreds  
and thrown it away.

If you're not completely naked,  
wrap your beautiful robe of words  
around you,

and sleep.

**Those who don’t feel love**

A lifetime without Love is of no account  
  
Love is the Water of Life  
  
Drink it down with heart and soul!

**Last night you left me and slept**

Last night you left me and slept

your own deep sleep. Tonight you turn

and turn. I say,

"You and I will be together

till the universe dissolves."

You mumble back things you thought of

when you were drunk.

**I have been tricked by flying too close**

I have been tricked by flying too close   
to what I thought I loved.

Now the candleflame is out, the wine spilled,  
and the lovers have withdrawn  
somewhere beyond my squinting.

The amount I thought I'd won, I've lost.  
My prayers becomes bitter and all about blindness.

How wonderful it was to be for a while  
with those who surrender.

Others only turn their faces on way,  
then another, like pigeon in flight.

I have known pigeons who fly in a nowhere,  
and birds that eat grainlessness,

and tailor who sew beautiful clothes  
by tearing them to pieces.

**Who is at my door?**

He said, "Who is at my door?"  
I said, "Your humble servant."  
He said, "What business do you have?"  
I said, "To greet you, 0 Lord."

He said, "How long will you journey on?"  
I said, "Until you stop me."  
He said, "How long will you boil in the fire?"  
I said, "Until I am pure.

"This is my oath of love.  
For the sake of love  
I gave up wealth and position."

He said, "You have pleaded your case   
but you have no witness."  
I said, "My tears are my witness;  
the pallor of my face is my proof.'  
He said, "Your witness has no credibility;  
your eyes are too wet to see."  
I said, "By the splendor of your justice   
my eyes are clear and faultless."

He said, "What do you seek?"  
I said, "To have you as my constant friend."  
He said, "What do you want from me?"  
I said, "Your abundant grace."

He said, "Who was your companion on the 'ourney?  
I said, "The thought of you, 0 King."  
He said, "What called you here?"  
I said, "The fragrance of your wine."

He said, "What brings you the most fulfillment?"  
I said, "The company of the Emperor."  
He said, "What do you find there?"  
I said, "A hundred miracles."  
He said, "Why is the palace deserted?"  
I said, "They all fear the thief."  
He said, "Who is the thief?"  
I said, "The one who keeps me from -you.

He said, "Where is there safety?"  
I said, "In service and renunciation."  
He said, "What is there to renounce?"  
I said, "The hope of salvation."

He said, "Where is there calamity?"  
I said, "In the presence of your love."  
He said, "How do you benefit from this life?"  
I said, "By keeping true to myself

Now it is time for silence.  
If I told you about His true essence  
You would fly from your self and be gone,  
and neither door nor roof could hold you back!

**In The Arc Of Your Mallet**

Don't go anywhere without me.  
Let nothing happen in the sky apart from me,  
or on the ground, in this world or that world,  
without my being in its happening.  
Vision, see nothing I don't see.  
Language, say nothing.  
The way the night knows itself with the moon,  
be that with me. Be the rose  
nearest to the thorn that I am.

I want to feel myself in you when you taste food,  
in the arc of your mallet when you work,  
when you visit friends, when you go  
up on the roof by yourself at night.

There's nothing worse than to walk out along the street  
without you. I don't know where I'm going.  
You're the road, and the knower of roads,  
more than maps, more than love.

**Confused and distraught**

Again I am raging, I am in such a state by your soul that every  
bond you bind, I break, by your soul.  
I am like heaven, like the moon, like a candle by your glow; I am all  
reason, all love, all soul, by your soul.  
My joy is of your doing, my hangover of your thorn; whatever   
side you turn your face, I turn mine, by your soul.  
I spoke in error; it is not surprising to speak in error in this   
state, for this moment I cannot tell cup from wine, by your soul.  
I am that madman in bonds who binds the "divs"; I, the madman,  
am a Solomon with the "divs", by your soul.  
Whatever form other than love raises up its head from my   
heart, forthwith I drive it out of the court of my heart, by your soul.  
Come, you who have departed, for the thing that departs  
comes back; neither you are that, by my soul, nor I am that, by your soul.  
Disbeliever, do not conceal disbelief in your soul, for I will recite  
the secret of your destiny, by your soul.  
Out of love of Sham-e Tabrizi, through wakefulness or   
nightrising, like a spinning mote I am distraught, by your soul.

**Reason says, "I will beguile him with the tongue;"**

Reason says, "I will beguile him with the tongue;"  
Love says, "Be silent. I will beguile him with the soul."  
The soul says to the heart, "Go, do not laugh at me  
and yourself. What is there that is not his, that I may beguile him thereby?"  
He is not sorrowful and anxious and seeking oblivion  
that I may beguile him with wine and a heavy measure.  
The arrow of his glance needs not a bow that I should  
beguile the shaft of his gaze with a bow.  
He is not prisoner of the world, fettered to this world  
of earth, that I should beguile him with gold of the kingdom of the world.  
He is an angel, though in form he is a man; he is not  
lustful that I should beguile him with women.  
Angels start away from the house wherein this form  
is, so how should I beguile him with such a form and likeness?  
He does not take a flock of horses, since he flies on wings;  
his food is light, so how should I beguile him with bread?  
He is not a merchant and trafficker in the market of the  
world that I should beguile him with enchantment of gain and loss.  
He is not veiled that I should make myself out sick and  
utter sighs, to beguile him with lamentation.  
I will bind my head and bow my head, for I have got out  
of hand; I will not beguile his compassion with sickness or fluttering.  
Hair by hair he sees my crookedness and feigning; what's  
hidden from him that I should beguile him with anything hidden.  
He is not a seeker of fame, a prince addicted to poets,  
that I should beguile him with verses and lyrics and flowing poetry.  
The glory of the unseen form is too great for me to   
beguile it with blessing or Paradise.  
Shams-e Tabriz, who is his chosen and beloved - perchance  
I will beguile him with this same pole of the age.

**A New Rule**

It is the rule with drunkards to fall upon each other,  
to quarrel, become violent, and make a scene.  
The lover is even worse than a drunkard.  
I will tell you what love is: to enter a mine of gold.  
And what is that gold?

The lover is a king above all kings,  
unafraid of death, not at all interested in a golden crown.  
The dervish has a pearl concealed under his patched cloak.  
Why should he go begging door to door?

Last night that moon came along,   
drunk, dropping clothes in the street.  
"Get up," I told my heart, "Give the soul a glass of wine.  
The moment has come to join the nightingale in the garden,  
to taste sugar with the soul-parrot."

I have fallen, with my heart shattered -  
where else but on your path? And I  
broke your bowl, drunk, my idol, so drunk,  
don't let me be harmed, take my hand.

A new rule, a new law has been born:  
break all the glasses and fall toward the glassblower

**This Marriage - Ode 2667**

May these vows and this marriage be blessed.  
May it be sweet milk,  
this marriage, like wine and halvah.  
May this marriage offer fruit and shade  
like the date palm.  
May this marriage be full of laughter,  
our every day a day in paradise.  
May this marriage be a sign of compassion,  
a seal of happiness here and hereafter.  
May this marriage have a fair face and a good name,  
an omen as welcome  
as the moon in a clear blue sky.  
I am out of words to describe  
how spirit mingles in this marriage.