

13 Eurydice

A dream is sent on an errand to
A dreamer embracing his pillow, who
Dreams he is thinking thoughts of his own,
A part of himself, where he lies there alone.

He forgot his words as he came up to
The surface of the ground, leading you
To the land of the living, the land of light,
To behold you again with his adoring sight.

For the loss of you, his song's outcry
Filled the land and sea and the starry sky,
Till even slumbering death could hear
And opened a way in through his ear.

You were so heavy in your sleep,
Filled and closed for death to keep.
You were a dream the shadow thought was his own,
A part of himself, where he lies there alone.

Were you aware of your lover leading you away,
Did you remember him or the light of day?
Was it just a dream that he was lifting you home,
Or are you so complete lying there all alone?

This song is built on the ancient Greek myth of **Orpheus**, a singer of wonderful poetic songs. He lost his beautiful bride **Eurydice** to a deadly snake bite. His grief became an overwhelming passion to bring her back to life. He descends to the nether regions of the dead. Death agrees to let him bring his wife back up to the land of the living, but she was to silently follow him. He must not look back even once, or she would be taken back to the land of the dead.

But Orpheus cannot resist looking back to see if his beautiful wife is still following. The instant he does, death pulls her back, and she is gone. He is overwhelmed with a double grief. At first, he lost her to a poison snake. Now, he loses her again because of his own blundering weakness, filling him with self-hatred and grieving rage.

Have you ever tried to help someone you love come back from a faith which has died—and who no longer has a will to live—but your own blundering self gets in the way?