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Toward Life

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**TOWARD LIFE*... SIX LYRIC POEMS -
ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN GERMAN - 1975-1992**

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DISTANT SUFFERING

*There are days
which are so hard
that one can no longer dream.
The morning grows pale.
In the evening the lights go out.
The future becomes less.
Only suffering surrounds you.*

*On such days you should know,
that I am with you,
even if from a great distance.
No ocean,
no country,
no language
will separate us.*

*The wind which blows soothingly about you,
the moon and the stars,
which light up your path,
are emissaries from a distant heart.*

* German titles and sources of publication are in the REFERENCES after the poems.

DECLARATION OF LOVE

*When I speak your name,
I am a song.*

*When you call me,
you are the wind.*

*When we proclaim our love,
we are the singing.*

THE LAST GREETING

FOR YOU

*I wanted even
in departing
in remembering you and considering the many years
to place a flower on your heart.*

JUST

*evading death, hardly resisting it
you draw
from old vessels yet
a last drop of glowing wine.*

ONLY

*standing on the edge of existence
do you recognize
the sense of the years gone by
and the greatness of achieved life.*

FOUND AGAIN

*For a long time
-turned toward you-
I have
thought of you
of time elapsed, gone by
and the years
of our great love.*

*Beloved
are you,
enduring time and distance,
pointing toward the future,
promising love
deep down into the roots
of my being.*

*To call you
mine and
to promise faithfulness
I have desired
since you--protected by love--
fell
with the stars into distant worlds.*

COMING TO TERMS WITH THE PAST

*In your heart listen to the sounds
of songs which have long faded away.
In pictures of the dead look for
lights which radiated love.
For the disinherited at the edge of the world
light up paths toward happier homes.*

and know:

*Once lovers lived more easily
whose love enriched the earth.
Once the poets sang with great consolation,
who attempted to interpret existence.
Once bells tolled more softly,
which called the people to peace.*

*Learn to forget past things,
which block the path into the new land.
Do not look backwards into time,
which distorts our view of the future.
Plant a seed before morning,
which will greet the sun on the new day.*

and know:

*Understanding history only from behind,
we see human fate darkly.
Committed to the renewing forces of the future,
we no longer notice the passing of the years.
Totally given over to the past,
we work on temples for new times.*

TOWARD LIFE

*All the glory of the earth,
the ether, the oceans
we share.
To the honor and dignity of humanity,
to freedom and peace among peoples
we pledge our faithfulness.*

*Dream-charged, turned away from other worlds
we,
children of stardust and light,
face the future.
In need of love and bringing fire
we create new life.*

*Winged we pursue
the course of our fate.
Upright in the final space flight,
heading into the dying sun, our death assured
we search everywhere
for burgeoning life.*

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