

Matthew's Song



Although death has given me yet another name,
I am the same as I have always been, ...
I am no further away from life than life is from itself.

I have done no more than turn a corner,
cross a bridge, and accept myself
as one who travels lighter, ...
I live where I have always lived, ...in the thoughts of others,
in the magnificence of flowers, ...
in the center of the wind.

I am well, ...
for there is no greater honor than to be carried forward
by those I cherished before I was given another name,
and I am better knowing
that my gifts
will journey further by way of gentle hands, ...
my light, my love, ...my joy, ...
these gifts, I know, ...will touch the children of tomorrow,
through all those whom I have loved.

We have
always been one, ...
we are not more separate now
than when we walked together beneath the stars.
I am here, beside you, ...
I am in every blade of grass, ...I am in the laughter of every child, ...
I am in the songs of the sparrow, the music of the rain,
and the wings of a butterfly, ...
I am the sunlight on the river, ...the soft blue of the sky,
and the cool lavender shadows, which bend
along the mountainside.

Yes, I am here,
where I have always been, ...
within the promises I have kept, ...the dreams I have shared,
and within the hearts of those who I carry within mine.
I am here, because this is my home, ...
and this is the place where I can always be found, ...
right here, ...where I am loved, ...
right here, ...next to you.

- Heather K. O'Hara -

In loving memory of my stepson, Matthew Tracey Leong
April 19, 1976 - October 6, 2002

from
AXIS, The Song in the Center of the Soul