

SONGS OF TRANSFORMATION

I.

Kashti-ye bâdeh...
(*Hâfez*)

Verse I

Biâ-vo kashti-ye mâ dar shat-e sharâb andâz.
Khorush-o velveleh dar jân-e sheikh-o shâb-andâz
Marâ be kashti-ye bâdeh darafkan ey-sâghi
Ke goftek-and neku'i kon-o dar âb-andâz

(Come launch our ship into the river of wine
Set a clamor and uproar into the souls of old and young
Oh cup-bearer, cast me into the ship of wine
For it is said “Do good and cast it in the water.”)

Verse II

Biâr zân mei-ye golrang-e moshk bu jâmi
Sharâr-e rashg-o hassad dar del-e golâb-andâz

(Bring me a cup from the rose-colored musk-scented wine
Light the fire of jealousy in the rosewater's heart)

Verse III

Ze ku-ye meikadeh bargashteh-am ze râh-e khatâ
Marâ degar ze karam bâ rah-e savâb-andâz

(I have returned from the tavern road by mistake
Be generous and set me on the right path)

Verse IV

Agar che mast-o kharâbam to niz lotfi kon
Nazar barin del-e sargashteh-ye kharâb-andâz

(Though I am so drunk and wasted, please still be kind
Look upon this wrecked bewildered heart)

Verse V

Mahel ke ruz-e vafâtam be khâk bespârand
Marâ be meikadeh bar dar khom-e sharâb-andâz
(At my death day, don't let them bury me in the earth
At the tavern place me in a cask of wine)

Verse VI

Be nim-shab agarat âftâb mibâyad
Ze ru-ye dokhtar-e golchehr-e raz neghâb-andâz
(At midnight, if you need the sun
Cast off the veil from the rosy-faced daughter of the grape)

(translated by Heather Carman)

II.

A Crystal Rim
(Daniel Ladinsky)

The
Earth
Lifts is glass to the sun
And light -light
Is poured.

A bird
Comes and sits on a crystal rim
And from the forest cave I
Hear singing.

So I run to the edge of existence
And join my soul in love.

I lift my heart to God
And grace is poured.

An emerald bird rises from inside me
And now sits
Upon the Beloved's
Glass.

I have left that dark cave forever.
My body had blended with His.

I lay my wing
As a bridge to you

So that you can join us
Singing.

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