



## *Spiritual Poetry Meetup*

*Poems to take home with you*

*February 15, 2026*

*First Light – Albert Huffstickler*

*The Deep Pull of Love – Thomas Merton*

*Pax – D.H. Lawrence*

*Blessing for the Place Between – Jan Richardson*

*The Avowal – Denise Levertov*

*In the Point of Rest – Dag Hammarskjöld*



To join the Spiritual Poetry Meetup Group, go to

<https://www.meetup.com/Spiritual-Poetry-Meetup-International/>

For more Take-Home Poetry Packs, assorted poems, and the Intrinsic Heart blog, go to

<https://intrinsicheart.com>



## FIRST LIGHT

This morning up at four  
couldn't get back to sleep  
made coffee, dawdled, walked  
out in still-dark morning, Diane  
at Pronto Convenience, then  
coffee on the bench in front of  
the bakery, greeting the early  
morning people, something in  
me saying, "Don't miss this," -  
how our life and our death  
intertwine, "Don't miss this," -  
that beautiful edge that comes  
knowing there's only so much  
time left, trying to come up  
with a way to say I love you  
to everything at once and  
falling back on words again,  
words scrawled in the first  
morning light on my bench in  
front of the bakery, right  
here at the center of the world.

- Albert Huffstickler  
Photo by Leo Lei on Unsplash  
(b&w; original, color)

## the deep pull of love



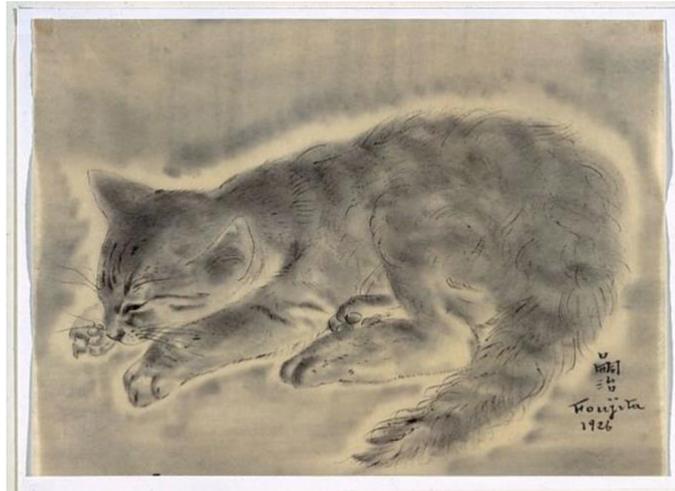
When I am not present to myself,  
then I am only aware of that half of me,  
that mode of my being which turns outward to created things.

And then it is possible for me to lose myself among them.  
Then I no longer feel the deep secret pull  
of the gravitation of love which draws my inward self toward God.

My will and my intelligence lose their command of the other faculties.  
My senses, my imagination, my emotions,  
scatter to pursue their various quarries all over the face of the earth.

Recollection brings them home.  
It brings the outward self into line with the inward spirit,  
and makes my whole being answer the deep pull of love  
that reaches down into the mystery of God.

~ Thomas Merton  
from *No Man is an Island*  
sketch by the author



## *Pax*

All that matters is to be at one with the living God  
To be a creature in the house of the God of Life.  
Like a cat asleep on a chair  
at peace, in peace  
and at one with the master of the house,  
with the mistress,  
at home, at home in the house of the living,  
sleeping on the hearth, and yawning before the fire.

Sleeping on the hearth of the living world  
yawning at home before the fire of life  
feeling the presence of the living God  
like a great reassurance  
a deep calm in the heart  
a presence  
as of the master sitting at the board  
in his own and greater being,  
in the house of life.

—D.H. Lawrence



## BLESSING FOR THE PLACE BETWEEN

When you come  
to the place between.

When you have left  
what you held  
most dear.

When you are traveling  
toward the life  
you know not.

When you arrive  
at the hardest ground.

May it become  
for you  
a place to rest.

May it become  
for you  
a place to dream.

May the pain  
that has pressed itself  
into you  
give way  
to vision,  
to knowing.

May the morning  
make of it  
an altar,  
a path,  
a place to begin  
again.

—Jan Richardson

You can read it online at

<https://intrinsicheart.com/blessing-for-the-place-between/>

and it is posted on Jan Richardson's Facebook page for July 18, 2020 <https://www.facebook.com/JanRichardsonAuthor/>

[Photo by Jad Limcaco on Unsplash](#)

# “The Avowal” by Denise Levertov



Calida Garcia Rawles *Radiating My Sovereignty*, 2019. Acrylic on canvas, 84 × 72 in.

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*For Carolyn Kizer and John Woodbridge,  
Recalling Our Celebration  
of George Herbert's Birthday, 1983*

As swimmers dare  
to lie face to the sky  
and water bears them,  
as hawks rest upon air  
and air sustains them,  
so would I learn to attain  
freefall, and float  
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,  
knowing no effort earns  
that all-surrounding grace.

Copied from: <https://artandtheology.org/2021/03/16/the-avowal-by-denise-levertov/>

This poem is from *Oblique Prayers*, copyright ©1984 by Denise Levertov, and also appears in Levertov's [\*The Stream and the Sapphire: Selected Poems on Religious Themes\*](#).



In the point of rest at the center of our being,  
we encounter a world where all things are at rest in the same way.

Then a tree becomes a mystery,  
a cloud a revelation,  
each man a cosmos of whose riches we can only catch glimpses.

The life of simplicity is simple, but it opens to us  
a book in which we never get beyond the first syllable.

~ Dag Hammarskjöld  
from *Markings*

<https://intrinsicheart.com/in-the-point-of-rest/>