**An Odyssey**

**of Love**

**by T. W. Gilbert**

**We go through life a wandering for ev-**

**er and a day, without a clue of me**

**and you or what we’d like to say. We nev-**

**er know where we’ve come from or what our sea**

**will bring. We live alone, in flesh and bone,**

**and fears to which we cling. We strive to know**

**why we are here, on earth where we’ve been thrown,**

**while giving, taking, and mistaking, tow-**

**ing all we’ve sewn. We live with no direc-**

**tions, though we hope and dream and smile, and pray**

**we make it through to peace, beyond life’s wreck,**

**in style. If we could just hold hands this day,**

**perhaps to share what’s here, it would appear**

**we’ve found what’s real, before we disappear.**

**Our loneliness is brutal, it’s just like**

**a common cold, that comes when least expec-**

**ted when we’re down and out and old, to strike**

**us all like clockwork as we blindly trek**

**towards death, which waits without exception for**

**that slowly ended breath. Who knew this life**

**was feeble for exacting such a score,**

**of loss and grief and endless hurt, and strife**

**that’s set for more? It wasn’t in the fine**

**print or expressed in nursery schools where teach-**

**ers helped to nurture all us smiling shin-**

**ing fools. We weren’t forewarned in any speech**

**by mother, father, sage, that with old age**

**comes loneliness while walking off life’s stage.**

**I want to give you all my world the things**

**that I’ve achieved: the failures many, I’ve**

**produced; successes, few perceived. What springs**

**forth from my heart is all my love alive**

**for you; dear Emma all I am is just**

**what’s sweetly overdue. I see and feel**

**your soul is in such need of love and trust.**

**The ache you’ve known is mine also. Let’s heal**

**as we adjust, to being what we sure-**

**ly need, partaking of this love, that flows**

**without instruction from God’s realm secure**

**above. If all we do is trust what grows**

**and walk love’s path each day, our interplay**

**will be a dance like spring time born in May.**

**Happiness lives in all my love, dear Em-**

**ma please be you. You are my sun, my moon,**

**my stars, I wait to say, “I do.” What dem-**

**onstration of my love can I but soon-**

**er make? I live for you and all we are;**

**of love’s cup we partake. We are like danc-**

**ers in a waltz, twin planets round a star.**

**Whatever in God’s plans gave us this chance**

**to be bizarre? Who could have warned, who could**

**have planned, why did the Fates allow, this dream**

**of love to manifest, I know we should**

**ask how. Not Hollywood, nor Aesop, team-**

**ing up to tell this tale, could yet regale**

**in poem or prose our love that marks our trail.**

**I’m so relaxed when I’m with you, as if**

**we’ve always known, that thoughts and dreams are sec-**

**ond guessed, just what life’s always shown. The diff-**

**erence this time may be that we are neck**

**and head, above our lengthy distant pasts**

**to where now we’ve been lead: this place of peace**

**and joy and love; our ships have full sailed masts.**

**Horizons, clear, and seas now calm: release**

**that fear contrasts. It’s Heaven we now grasp**

**in hands that hold each other tight, we cher-**

**ish every second here, as we now clasp**

**love’s light. How long have we both waited, car-**

**ing for all lives we’ve known, but now we own**

**what God’s bestowed: this blessing we’ve been shown.**

**You are my dream, of time long gone, come back**

**to help me here. And I, for you, in this**

**time frame; we had to reappear. No lack**

**this time have we perceived, we cannot miss**

**our fate, which opens like a treasure chest**

**of dreams that won’t be late. Our joy that fills**

**each day we have, abundance that is blessed,**

**comes at us like spring flower’s scents, and thrills**

**us as professed. All trials gone, all hurts**

**undone, we triumph every day. Our needs**

**now unfold as we stroll: what God’s alerts**

**convey. We’ve just arrived where joy proceeds**

**and leads us towards our dreams, through bright sunbeams**

**of happiness and love’s pervasive schemes.**

**The comfort that I feel with you is like   
a summer day, a puffy cloud and blue  
lit sky that just may always stay. I strike  
a pose of happiness that comes from you**

**with me; your touch, your gaze, your hand in mine  
provides a time that’s free. Your laugh. your gaze  
your smiling eyes now make my lifetime shine.  
I need you, want you more and more, you raise**

**what’s now divine. I cannot thank this un-  
iverse enough for all your gifts. You’ve made  
my life a living dream, like sun or moon  
that lifts all hope in this renewal aid-**

**ed by love’s faithful guides, who match our strides  
along life’s paths and bless what God provides.**

**We purpose to elaborate what gives  
us time to share. We seem like pawns in love’s  
embrace as we learn how to care. What lives  
within our moment’s peace provides what shoves**

**us close, with lips to lips, and chest to chest,  
and smiles we engross. Our families  
seem lost in thought as they observe what’s blessed.  
Their wide-eyed stares and open mouths now freeze**

**what we’ve caressed. If they but knew what we  
have shared their joy would be like ours, for all  
that is now in our lives comes from what’s free-  
dom’s powers. We’re blessed beyond what’s blessing’s haul**

**in overflowing grace, where every place  
we find ourselves is filled with our embrace.**

**There is a light upon your face, within  
your eyes so clear, that beckons I get clos-  
er and remain here ever near; begin-  
ing with your smile and that calm engross-**

**ing stare, your hands in mine, that grasp my heart  
and fill my lips with prayer. I need you more  
and more each day, I cannot live apart  
from you who have arrived in time: the core**

**of where I start. I don’t remember life  
alone, when all I had was rain, a time  
of grief and loss and tears, bereft of wife  
in pain; for now I’m lifted in this climb**

**out of this hole so deep, where I can sleep  
in timeless joy within the dreams you keep.**

**The Heavens are aware of you; rose pet-  
als fill your path. Your steps in life are planned  
each day, one need not do the math. What’s set  
in our development will help us stand**

**each day, together now, with hand in hand,  
reciting Shakespeare’s play. There’s nothing we  
can’t do here while we match what Fates command.  
Our laughter, peace, and love assured, we see**

**how we expand, and grow, and thrive, and bring  
each day providing all we love, our dail-  
y blessings we’ve been given from our King  
above. The light at tunnel’s end’s a sail**

**that helps us as we steer, towards ending’s pier  
in Glory’s page: what’s love in our career.**

**We gather round a table meal to seek**

**what brought us here. As friends we deeply hold**

**each other in kind ways so dear. Though bleak**

**our pasts we’ve come from, we now share our gold-**

**en hearts, that lend support and wisdom, for**

**we’ve learned the healing arts. For growing and**

**succeeding help us all with being more,**

**than ever we envisioned, when what’s planned**

**grows from before. We can’t forget where we’ve**

**come from; that would be such a crime. But each**

**of us is going forward though we grieve**

**lost time. It helps that we can share and teach**

**each other of our lives; but what now drives**

**us to go on is where God’s wisdom thrives.**

**I think I know, I think I know, but what**

**I am is lame. You are my heart and soul**

**dear Emma, may I be your same? The nut-**

**tiness of this world makes for blindness: toll-**

**ings cursed. Mistakes are but rare learning curves,**

**embarrassments seem worst. Your words this morn-**

**ing fill me up with love in blessed reserves.**

**Your understandings bring forth tears, I’m torn,**

**my mind observes. How can it be you know**

**and love me for all that I am? I’m blessed**

**beyond all limits known, I think I’m low-**

**est sham. You lift me up, you hold me (messed),**

**while my heart gushes thanks, and while life cranks**

**out faults, THERE’S YOU: I’m blessed amongst its pranks.**

**There comes a time when love prevails, when all**

**that is just fits, when deeds and truths and bless-**

**ings flow with what God now permits. The call-**

**ing out for workings planned comes through each guess-**

**ing soul, who follows inner light direc-**

**tions towards a peaceful goal, where all who strive**

**in righteous pain, though collared by the neck,**

**know Time is ripe for freedom’s dream alive**

**with all who trek, this earthly plane now hand**

**in hand with those who need a lift. For you**

**and me this journey here is but a grand**

**old gift, that we are simply living through;**

**it’s plain we’re meant to be, with all who see**

**that tunneled light as inner fortunes free.**

**That you are with me by my side makes all**

**life here worthwhile. I stop to breathe and rest**

**with how you make me ever smile. This fall**

**as colors blend our feelings with the best**

**of us, we peer into each other’s eyes**

**with joy we can discuss, in wordless time**

**that fills us up with loving sweet surprise.**

**You are my ever present dream: sublime**

**as blessed sunrise. You hold me with your thoughts**

**and dreams, I feel your blesséd cares. I am**

**aware of all you are: I’m filled with lots**

**of prayers, for you, for us, for life: this gem**

**that makes what’s us so dear, an endless mere**

**reflecting light that brightens God’s frontier.**

**I can’t believe you’ve chosen me to be**

**with you here now. The privilege that I feel**

**inside just makes me wonder how. I see**

**magnificence in everything reveal-**

**ing you. I’m honored to share life and dreams,**

**what more am I to do? I feel you should**

**be given every fortune Time esteems.**

**I know you’ve never wanted more than good-**

**ness my heart deems. We both are blessed this time**

**around, there’s no denying this. For all**

**we’ve got in front of us is what’s sublime-**

**ly bliss. I’ve never known such love enthrall-**

**ing; and it’s all from you; I never knew**

**I’d meet you now with all that we’ve been through.**

**Emma, dearest, I do declare, our time**

**is just pure gold. You are the wine that fills**

**my cup, the lift that I now hold. This rhyme**

**Is but a poor attempt to state what thrills**

**our life. You are my all, you are my day,**

**my ever present wife: formalities**

**can wait for now, that’s all I have to say,**

**but living now is such a joy, an ease**

**where all is play: like little kids we can**

**relate, and laugh and smile and hug; we know**

**just everything we are, so we can plan**

**what’s snug: that perfect fit that makes us glow,**

**and brings love here to stay, amidst the fray**

**of life on earth, while we stroll on our way.**

**We dance in tune to life itself, the mus-**

**ic fits our moves. The celebration of**

**our time sings like life now approves. The news**

**we make is “love is all,” for what is love**

**but heart: a giving flowing energy**

**that comes from where we start. Acceptance gives**

**an opening where love has room to be;**

**a place where freedom brings life home and lives**

**for all to see. You are my life, my heart,**

**my soul, you make each second real. The peace**

**surrounding us this time now makes our part**

**ideal. We’re grateful for life’s grand increase,**

**abundance we now share. Our grateful prayer**

**for all to hear is, “Be so everywhere.”**

**All life is here, not fair nor fowl, but just**

**what we all need. We should not be too hast-**

**y when fixed choices intercede. What must**

**seem hard to understand, when all life’s based**

**on trust, is when unwelcomed chaos makes**

**one’s dreams turn into dust. Such problems come**

**when learnings are a need to fix mistakes.**

**We plan and plan while knowing zilch: the sum**

**of trialed aches. But rainbows come when rain-**

**drops end, and blessings when things fail. We should**

**be grateful for life’s trials that sustain**

**this trail. All hopes and dreams are understood**

**when flow of life is prized. What’s realized**

**through destinies are truths that come disguised.**

**There comes a time when peace descends, when all**

**about is good. When everything we know**

**and feel comes by to say, “It should.” Recall-**

**ing when we met at first, it was a glow-**

**ing spark, a lifting and embracing that**

**enlightened what's been dark. We knew at once**

**that we had found a perfect welcome mat,**

**a new lifetime of fortune that confronts**

**life’s habitat. All that we have now fits**

**our lives, like this was meant to be. We are**

**here in that perfect state that now admits,**

**“We’re free,” together as a blazing star**

**entwined as light and love, to shed above**

**and here below true grace: what we know of.**

**I love you here, I love you there, I love**

**you always, anywhere. You might not know,**

**what I know now, that you are many of**

**what’s wow. You are that glee of heaven’s glow**

**the best, the brightest, in life’s show. What I**

**have guessed is that I’m blessed. It’s all because**

**of you, professed. The recent buzz: the why**

**of does, just fits our past, what always was.**

**I cannot lie, you are my high, you are**

**what I will glorify. What’s nice advice,**

**that breaks the ice, is you are now my star**

**device. I’ll say it twice, my paradise,**

**is where you’ll always be, right here with me,**

**forever free, from now to Nth degree.**

**You are my all, my all the time, you make**

**my life complete. I do not know what life**

**would be if we could never meet. I take**

**it you feel just the same, you are the wife**

**I’ve dreamt. Who can I thank this time around,**

**achieved with this attempt? Our blessing’s much**

**more than a gift, a marvel to astound.**

**We stand together, teary eyed, each touch-**

**ing what we’ve found. As much surprised as thank-**

**ful, we continue to hold tight, and smile**

**now at each other, as we know it’s frank-**

**ly right. I thank you, as you thank me, while**

**we laugh, and dance, and grin; it’s all within**

**what we have found: this lifetime we begin.**

**Winter’s coming, placing what’s snow on minds,**

**and hearts, and feet: that cold, that envelops**

**all seeking blanket’s soup, to greet what finds**

**fingers, toes, and noses, balancing ups**

**with its icicle downs. But my love’s touch**

**is always spring, and fits each bristled chill**

**with thawing flowers, warm rain, and a clutch-**

**ing fragrance that blends dusk to dawn, until**

**all frost and such melts away and vanish-**

**es. I await her summer, her sunshine,**

**her gentle breeze, all Yule long, with a wish**

**conferring entwining growth: hers and mine,**

**in love’s loam, therefore freeing, while we’re be-**

**ing, a most glorious flowering tree.**

**Monday morning, a cleared sidewalk, one more**

**open time line, silence and wondering,**

**waiting for the clock to grape vine the score:**

**lunch, bills, meetings, those things for gathering.**

**Shelved hopes, kept like holiday decora-**

**tions, stay like dogs, or ropes around open**

**man holes, precautions for unknowns, what stay**

**silly adventures, fun, what we again**

**dream for this day, or tomorrow. At least**

**I know that you, Emma, are here with me,**

**for whatever we may encounter, feast**

**and cheer, or famine and drear. What will be**

**will be, while we hold hands, through life’s demands,**

**stepping cautiously through earth’s shifting sands.**

**“I know the taste of dust this time it’s like**

**all ashes burnt. It teaches what may nev-**

**er happen, or those dreams that weren’t: that strike**

**from Fates who measure all, and play that sev-**

**ered string: a trump card from within that sleeve,**

**a barb with luscious sting.” “There’s time for all**

**to play a hand, so please don’t ever leave.**

**You must have known this game won’t end, your call**

**is to unweave: the messages this game**

**has taught, the lessons here conveyed; what are**

**those things that you have learned, can you now tame**

**what’s strayed?” “I have a girl who is my star,**

**my ever shining light, so in this night**

**of games in games, I have all answers right.”**

**You are the best and only girl that I**

**have ever known, who’s there for you and me**

**as one, yet helps all those who’ve grown. To lie**

**beside you all night long is just what free-**

**dom sings: a comfort and a welcomed peace**

**that shelters like shared wings. You give to us**

**a blessed gift, a fervent calmed release,**

**from vacant fears and troubled years: a fuss**

**that screams “decrease.” You are my blessed secur-**

**ity, a wholesome sacred trust, a gift**

**that never runs its course, a source like pure**

**star dust, that heals and fills my heart so swift-**

**ly making light of dark: where blazing spark**

**of love pervades our being in life’s park.**

**I’m now content, as you’re with me. I’ve not**

**been here before. I sit in calm, enjoy-**

**ing life, I need not ask for more. You’ve got**

**me where I need to be, a happy boy**

**grown old. That you’re with me and I’m with you,**

**means life’s our pot of gold. Our rainbow is**

**our love that grows, like sparkling morning dew.**

**It leaves us in a perfect state, where mis-**

**ery is through. The joy that’s here is here**

**to stay, our path’s a grand parade. We’ll watch**

**the cheering crowds assembled, now so dear**

**displayed, where what they’re seeing is top notch,**

**the best that life can give, discarding driv-**

**el from what’s past, so we may both shall live.**

**Your gentleness just overwhelms; I can’t**

**express my thanks, in words that fail to lend**

**some sense, as efforts muster blanks. You plant**

**in my heart restoration as you send**

**me hope, and love of the profoundest na-**

**ture helping me to cope. It is as if**

**you are my guiding light through every day:**

**the ups and downs and turn arounds, while diff-**

**erent paths are grey. I’ll let you lead me on**

**this time as wisdom’s clearly yours. Your sight**

**is clearly better than mine as it con-**

**jures doors, that lead us into purest light**

**and ever present peace; for what decrease**

**will we encounter when you bring increase?**

**Every day you surprise me, with insight,**

**thoughtfulness, and love, so amazingly**

**“on,” and direct, here where I stand, such light**

**for me to hold, with you by my side, see-**

**ing your every gift, accommodating**

**all who are your loves, pouring out your heart**

**and soul, sharing who you are, as if sing-**

**ing were a task, and not a joy apart**

**from daily bringing meals, rides, reminders,**

**cleaning up after all. How can I thank**

**you for everything, and all that occurs,**

**more than I can ever state? My mind: blank,**

**in awe, reverence, plainly asking main-**

**ly that I have a place where you sustain.**

**What have we here, this love we share, as we**

**are fine with us? How can this be, in times**

**so dark, that we have found a plus? The key**

**may be acceptance of the gifts love’s crimes**

**have placed. We’ve been bestowed with endless joy,**

**our hearts now interlaced. Connections are**

**a seamless theme, we trust the Fates employ,**

**that give us what we’ve ever dreamed, a Star**

**that we enjoy: that light that ever guides**

**us as we hold tight on life’s path. We give**

**and take for Heaven’s sake, in painless strides**

**through wrath: that pointless obfuscation liv-**

**ing with us as we stare, without a care,**

**at what we have, a love divine we share.**

**I’m so in awe of you, of YOU, you may**

**not have a clue. You’re perfect as a wel-**

**come gift, a longing overdue. This day**

**now stands completed, and I now can dwell**

**in peace, for you have blessed me with your pres-**

**sence, offered me release, from all life’s ter-**

**rors, here and gone, I’m now completely mes-**

**merised, with everything you do: you share**

**(my I Ching says), your heart and soul, and all**

**you are, I could not be more blessed. Thank God**

**this miracle of you can rightly call**

**us best. I am content, forever odd,**

**but that’s no matter now, for life somehow**

**has mastered fate, and all we are is “WOW.”**

**Another day and you amaze me for**

**your love is real. I find myself attached**

**to you in ways where we congeal. What’s more**

**is that you flow with me as if we’re matched**

**and paired, a twosome that were made togeth-**

**er with one fate that’s shared. I think that mine’s**

**forever yours with no need for a teth-**

**er. What we have will never need those signs**

**for stormy weather. I like to think our**

**time won’t end, just like handless clocks, that meas-**

**ure nothing apropos: no ticks an hour,**

**nor tocks. How came we to unveil this treas-**

**er, finding love beneath, where sword and sheath**

**are how we fit within love’s circled wreath?**

**The wondrous aspects of our lives make mus-**

**ic we can hear, descending tones, fantas-**

**tic modes, that ring in sounds so clear, and fuse**

**the moments, all to all, as with each pass-**

**ing phrase, that makes for ever present joy**

**that flows within our days.  The closing breaths**

**of quietude augment what we enjoy.**

**They pose an ever lasting peace, like deaths**

**that lives employ: those pauses that we need**

**at times when rest is what comes last, before**

**we can begin again and gather seed**

**that’s passed. We offer up all that we score,**

**providing works as gifts, while life that shifts**

**its sails to tack, finds winds that offer lifts.**

**I can’t believe what life has brought, that we**

**are here and fine. Who would believe what’s hap-**

**pened to us: I am yours, you’re mine. I see**

**that you are happy and that life is snap-**

**py great. We have what most folks wished they had.**

**How wonderful is fate? I guess we’ve got**

**what’s meant to be, I guess we should be glad,**

**that all what’s past has realigned. Life’s plot**

**cannot be bad. Each time we meet is some-**

**thing new, a precious joy that’s shared. We wel-**

**come all that we now have. We are what’s come-**

**ly paired. Whom can we thank for this rare spell?**

**Should we thank all at Zoosk? Where me and yousk**

**found what we have and oldsk becomes what’s newsk?**

**That train whistle, like cracking eggs, fits so**

**nicely this Saturday morning before**

**Thanksgiving, like a welcome mat, with no**

**deterrence, heavenly calling, with more**

**than a little added spice, to offset**

**the quiet, and all the waiting. We plan,**

**and make last minute lists, for what needs get-**

**ting: whipped cream, butter, vanilla, a can**

**of pumpkin, letting go the idea**

**that the store shelves might be empty now. We**

**should have planned better, perhaps, with all the**

**noise we have overlooked in this dark sea**

**of Fall, and wet, and leaves down. Time relieves**

**the weary and the joyful, yet deceives.**

**With you bereft, and me morose, no poems**

**today, a holiday. It’s rainy out,**

**the sun is not, most folks are all in homes**

**they’ve got. I do suppose, there is no doubt,**

**my runny nose, with how life goes, is due**

**to winter’s cold sans sun. This laundromat**

**is full of folks, whom you deem young, while few**

**are old. While hustling, now where we’re at,**

**we should construe this habitat to be**

**a place of wholesome space, a joyous time**

**of work and cleaning too, where we can see**

**a pace in life: a rhythm in this rhyme**

**that flows in broken means, like these machines,**

**that throb and pulse like hand held jumping beans.**

**Thanksgiving is so meaningful this year**

**because of you. I feel so fortunate**

**this time with Christmas not so blue. I cheer**

**that we have met and shared with no regret**

**or shame. We know our hearts have weathered storms**

**that empty what was tame. Our eyes reveal**

**a calm approach to all that life now forms,**

**yet tears and smiles fill our thoughts, conceal-**

**ing what transforms. We’ve “walked” in other’s shoes**

**this life; we know each other’s fears. What’s Hell**

**is all around us, as we all peruse**

**frontiers. But we are standing, living well,**

**alive and full of peace, and like snow geese**

**that migrate far, we’ll flock to life’s increase.**

**I’m feeling blue right now, my dear, it’s just**

**that I just dream: we should have met some years**

**ago in childhood supreme. Adjust-**

**ing to this age we have when love appears**

**so new, is like a joke’s been played on us**

**when life is half way through. I’m thankful for**

**each moment that we share when we discuss**

**those daisy fields from porch swing view; it’s more**

**than what’s a plus! But I cannot think clear-**

**ly what life would be without you. I’ve come**

**to realizations that our end’s severe**

**when through. I wish to be forever stum-**

**bling grateful by your side, so mystified**

**by who we are, with fates forever tied.**

**I am awake, it’s early now, my fears**

**are stationed here. I feel that my endeav-**

**ors are now making things unclear. This year’s**

**unfoldings are so stressed, they seem to nev-**

**er end. My tasks are Herculean and**

**aren’t easy to defend. I must contin-**

**ue onward doing what my works demand;**

**this course is set, amidst regret, within**

**life’s shifting sand. I don’t know how to mus-**

**ter strength to finish what’s been planned. It’s like**

**I’m just an instrument in someone’s trus-**

**ty hand. I’m not one to go out on strike,**

**it’s never in my cards, while life discards**

**those weary into premature graveyards.**

**My confidence is waning and I don’t**

**know how to rest. My work is more than I**

**can bear, I’m clearly one obsessed. I won’t**

**consider quitting even though I cry**

**in pain. This solitude of knowing keeps**

**me going to obtain, some gifts that I**

**may share with some, while most of this world sleeps.**

**Thank God I have you by my side; you’re why**

**my heart now weeps, with joy that’s everlast-**

**ing, thank you for your presence dear. You’re all**

**that I will ever need as we move past**

**this fear. As long as you are with me call-**

**ing out what things we’ll need, it is agreed**

**we’ll triumph and in all things we’ll succeed.**

**My time with you is blooming now; it might**

**be Christmas time; but spring is in our hearts**

**for sure; growth tops our paradigms. The light**

**that glows between us is the spark that starts**

**our day. It spreads like mornings wonderful**

**and brightens interplay: like sparklers held**

**July the fourth and waved so worshipful.**

**We dance together with our words that meld**

**so mutual, through praisings of our ev-**

**erness, our sensing of what’s best. We know**

**what is togetherness, and what is nev-**

**er stressed. How came we to this sacred show,**

**this marvelous display, this eased pathway**

**to Heaven’s shore that’s blooming time in May?**

**I’ve found that I’m not lost this time, you’ve made**

**my life so clear. What’s come before will soon**

**explore life’s hidden gifts so near. Time’s played**

**its sin, so paper thin, like slithered moon**

**at dusk. What’s in the clutch seems out of touch;**

**life’s manners seem so brusque. But you are light**

**and always right, I need you now so much;**

**I could not be, without what’s “we,” you’re quite**

**my such and such. I know that life is full**

**of strife, but you help ease all pain. I’m sure**

**that all that can befall will help us pull**

**this train. We have a cure that is so pure;**

**we are what life can be. We should agree**

**that time’s carefree when you are “one” with me.**

**I’m one with you in heart and mind although**

**we are so new. Our laughter every day**

**we are together proves this true. We know**

**so much about each other as we play**

**in love. Our work and games and dull routines**

**all help us rise above what pasts that we’ve**

**encountered that have brought us to these scenes,**

**of boundless joy and clinging hands conceiv-**

**ing blessed means, that give abundance to**

**our dreams and make this wholeness true. What more**

**could we ask of this life when I am tru-**

**ly you, and you are me, and we are for**

**a time that’s well deserved, where we are served**

**by who we are with gifts that we’ve reserved?**

**Where we’ve come from is a question that we’re**

**given here. These books may give you insight**

**into pasts that seem unclear. Please, this year,**

**take notice of all those who’ve lived through plight;**

**they’ve known what’s real adversity; our an-**

**cestors were right. They’ve shown us paths that we**

**can take to lift humanity. What plan**

**do you see in your future? Can you see**

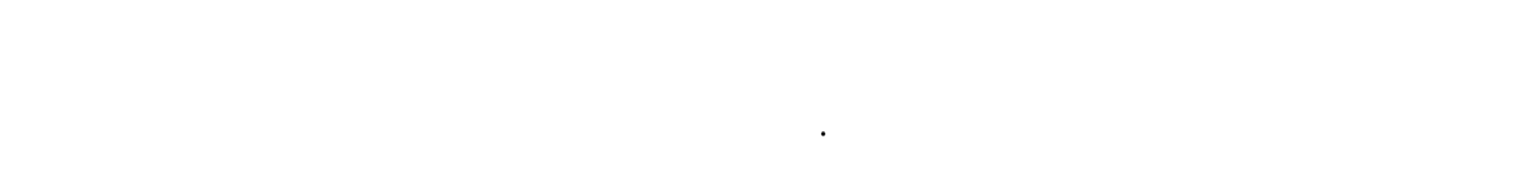
**what’s there?  Began so many years before**

**by those who’ve shown they care? Give all you are**

**in every deed to make life’s plan your door;**

**installing peace and love and light, your star**

**to lead the way, where you can give those through**

**you what will make their perfect day, on queue.**

**I’m so amazed at who we are, it’s like**

**we’ve always known, that we were matched as pairs**

**this time: not meant to be alone. The hike**

**we’ve made to get here climbing mountain stairs**

**of woe, incessant steps of grief and trials,**

**yet here we stand aglow. I’m grateful for**

**this wonderment, this joyful time of smiles.**

**It’s hard to fathom how it happened: more**

**that we’re exiles from those ideals that Hol-**

**lywood could paint on primrose screens. We’re plain**

**and simple common folk who come from sol-**

**id means. I know our destiny is main-**

**ly up to godly folk, who dare provoke**

**our sense and thought, while priding in life’s joke.**

**I hope that we can move the world and share**

**our love with all, and fix the hurt and pain**

**we see behind earth’s growing wall. To bear**

**the weight of light and work is why we deign**

**to stay. We know from our experience**

**that sharing love’s the way. The lessons that**

**earth’s trials bring may often seem intense.**

**But when life knocks you down and out and flat**

**outside God’s fence, it then behooves those still**

**down here to roll up sleeves and serve, and make**

**all efforts to relieve all pains with skill**

**and verve. There is no other reason shak-**

**ing loose for why we’re here. It’s really clear**

**that love’s the goal and means in life’s career.**

**I find that I’m in love with you; it’s such**

**a joy for me. I can’t believe it’s real-**

**ly you. How did this come to be? I’m much**

**too quirky, foolish, weird. How come I feel**

**so blessed? Do you now feel the same as me?**

**Has life thrown us a test? I’m so surprised**

**with everything I think and feel and see.**

**There’s no denying gratitude, life’s prized**

**us, we’d agree. I want this joy forev-**

**er, and I’m ordering it now. It’s just**

**that I believe in us, I think we’re Heav-**

**en’s WOW! We have been placed here, so it must**

**be fate that’s linked us tight, so we can cite,**

**“It’s destiny that rules our loving plight.”**

**Becoming All, this 14th day, is just**

**because we’re there. I think we’ll need to hold**

**each other tight as we’re a pair. We must**

**believe in destiny as we’ve been told**

**it’s real; it is a state of everlast-**

**ing peace that is ideal. We cannot change**

**this course of ours, this die that has been cast;**

**for we are players in life’s game, so strange,**

**and yet steadfast. There is fair reason we**

**must strive to cherish all we are. For what**

**we have is blessing, blazing hot like sea-**

**soned star. We have each other, while we shut**

**out things which do malign; though now entwine**

**as One remaining whole this Valentine.**

**You are my guiding light my dear, the one**

**who offers peace. I will be mindful of**

**your words for things I can release.  The fun**

**we’ll have in slowing down will give our love**

**some ease, for making time to just relax**

**will fix time by degrees. I’m glad that you**

**will help me as you slow me in my tracks.**

**I need to foster faith in fate, undo**

**impulse attacks. With you forever guid-**

**ing me I can’t lose sight of us. You are**

**what’s best in my life now, my light inside**

**this bus, that knows its destination far**

**beyond where we are here. So every year**

**we travel will be best for our career.**

**I look into your eyes again and love**

**what I behold: a caring sensitiv-**

**ity that helps us to unfold above**

**the hells that we endure as we all live**

**through pain. You lift me up so gingerly**

**with love that you sustain. I am so grate-**

**ful to be yours, you help me to be me.**

**I pray to be forever yours, your mate**

**within time’s sea. For every second we**

**are here is blessed beyond belief, we are**

**together and apart, it’s now what’s free**

**relief. All pain is gone, all worries far,**

**with you here by my side. I once relied**

**on loneliness, but look what love’s supplied.**

**My Valentine is with me here. She lives**

**for me each day. She mystifies what’s all**

**in life, and beautifies my way. She gives**

**me thought and love and peace and helps install**

**such grace, that never ends or wavers much,**

**it fits each warm embrace. My gratitude**

**is overflowing with her every touch.**

**This day my tears of joy express a mood**

**of joy that’s such, a thing that can’t be meas-**

**ured or distilled into a box. Our love**

**is just perfection and is seen through treas-**

**ured socks, I’ve found beneath my pillows; of**

**these touching gifts I’ll sing: for everything**

**she’s brought to me makes precious days in spring.**

**You are my all, my everything, I know**

**you’ve made my life. I am composed in peace**

**right now; do you feel you’re my wife? The glow**

**that you surround me with will never cease**

**or wane. It’s bright; it’s light, forever here;**

**we share what we sustain. I know that you**

**were meant for me, and I for you, my Dear.**

**With everything we share each day, renew-**

**ing what’s so clear, we are as One, a whole-**

**some whole, a blend of wondrous loves, a text-**

**book case of best of best, a grace of soul-**

**ful doves, who sing and dance and cry each next**

**experience in life, surmounting strife**

**with joy and tears, as husband facing wife.**

**You’re Phenomenal, Emma, my Dear,**

**I’m so glad that you wandered right here,**

**To be with me on Earth,**

**While providing such worth,**

**That the Gods and the Goddesses cheer.**

**You explain to me that we are One,**

**That our time here is more than just fun,**

**That we cherish a dream,**

**That the Heavens esteem,**

**Though the lessons have hardly begun.**

**I’m the happiest I’ve ever been,**

**And with you by my side like a twin,**

**Who just knows how I feel,**

**While we make our love real,**

**Sharing hearts that know how to begin.**

**I ponder where we are today with times**

**that change so quick. I love you like we’ve al-**

**ways known we’re One through thin and thick; like primes,**

**in pairs, that fit supremely, while recall-**

**ing plans, that we have treasured daily through**

**lost past lives in strange lands; we know we are**

**inseparable; our glowing love is true.**

**And everyone who witnesses our star**

**they know it too. We have what should be ev-**

**erywhere, for all who fall in love: that prec-**

**ious world of wonderment that God is rev-**

**erent of. I know you feel the same; we mesh**

**in thought and word and heart: our balanced part**

**of Heaven here, where worries fall apart.**

**We manifest our unseen forces tapped**

**from hidden spheres, while holding onto lights**

**with eyes that gaze through blessed years. Life’s wrapped**

**in wondrous glories that evolve through frights**

**and charms. We’ve lived through wretched horror states,**

**survived fierce false alarms. But what we share**

**this time around reveals our cancelled fates:**

**we’ve found that love is here and now; it’s where**

**God celebrates. These treasures that we dai-**

**ly know amaze us as we love. The parts**

**we play in wonderland reveal what’s way**

**above: arising and ascending hearts**

**that bring forth joy and peace; like flying geese**

**in cloudless skies where wonders never cease.**

**"I am so proud to call you friend and love**

**and certain wife. You make my home a bet-**

**ter place, a perfect balanced life. Above,**

**below, around, about, you simply set**

**what’s right. Your joy in everything you do,**

**expands what’s righteous light. I am relaxed**

**when I’m with you, we laugh, we play, we view**

**our lives right now as just beginning, maxed**

**in future’s queue. What’s best is certain, I**

**believe, we are a perfect match. We know**

**our thoughts and dreams together, what we try**

**to catch, amidst the trials fates now throw,**

**as we hold hands and smile, a now worth while**

**gentleness that gives our love its style."**

**You are my Valentine for sure, I know  
this in my heart. I wish to spend lifetimes  
with you from which we’ll never part. You show  
me life as it should be, with mountain climbs**

**ahead, as we traverse paths hand in hand  
toward graced horizons spread, amongst the smiles  
and laughter long, with shared encounters grand;  
we feed each other with our dreams, while trials**

**appear as sand, on beaches where we walk  
in peace, observing dunes and shells, and sun-  
sets reddening waves and foam, as gulls that squawk  
on swells, inject sweet music for our fun**

**to prosper what we know, where all life’s show  
of grandeured love helps lead us as we grow.**

**How happy have you made me here I can**

**not put in words. Your laughter, thoughts, and gen-**

**tle touch are painted flights of birds, that span**

**a pastel driven sky where dusk again**

**is viewed. Your earthy love fills me with lust**

**and ample gratitude. I wish for you**

**and me to love here now as we’ve discussed,**

**forever and a day with all that’s new**

**with what we trust: our holding hands, and smil-**

**ing eyes, our deference to each. We look**

**into each other’s souls with heart’s beguil-**

**ing reach, to gently foster care that took**

**millennia to build, but right now skilled**

**with happiness and peace that God’s instilled.**

**Emma, Emma, may I confess, your name**

**is sweetness blessed. I’ve never felt this way**

**before; I’m now heart gripped obsessed. I claim**

**sometimes to know so much; but I’m astray**

**and lost: in love, in unknown realms of bliss,**

**it’s now where I’ve been tossed. I don’t know what**

**to say or do, but I’m content with this:**

**a state of rapture, peace, and joy; what nut**

**would soon dismiss, these blessings we’ve received**

**these weeks, that seem like years gone by? All life**

**is good, with you, with me, as we’ve achieved**

**what’s high. I think of you as loving wife**

**who’s now a part of me. Don’t you agree**

**we are but One, where all our love’s carefree?**

**I do love you so much I can’t speak.**

**You’re the one my heart chooses to seek.**

**Every day is pure joy,**

**With the love we employ,**

**We’re everything: profoundly unique.**

**We’re on the verge of something big, I can-  
not guess what’s near. But with you by my side,  
my love, it can’t be less than dear. A plan   
would be ridiculous, just what we’d hide**

**behind: a fortune cookie message fix-  
ing luck that could be kind. But Fates have made  
decisions that will unfold just for kicks.  
They’ve known of our endeavors, so they’ll aid**

**us with their tricks. It’s like a dawn begin-  
ning with a sunrise afterglow. We may  
be able to discern our parts within  
the show. Regardless of the path this day**

**with you it shall be grand, where we will stand   
forever sharing love while hand in hand.**

**We did not know these depths of love could be**

**here at this time: our overflowing hearts**

**can now express love in this rhyme. We see**

**in this abundance what can be what starts**

**for us: togetherness through ups and downs**

**where we will long discuss, our hopes and fears**

**and what we see while wearing rags or crowns.**

**We’ll live all days here hand in hand in years**

**like laughing clowns, who jump for joy each time**

**we meet as if we’ve never met, though we**

**know in our hearts that once again love’s climb**

**is set, that we remember what can be:**

**a newness every day, where we can play**

**in happiness like kids who know their way.**

**The best in life is yet to come; we must   
hold to this dream. We do have few accom-  
plishments, which curse what we esteem. We trust  
in all we’ve learned so far, we can’t embalm**

**our past. Experience from crushing les-  
sons has left us aghast. The hindrances  
encountered only bolster blessed success:  
a future that eludes us, while Fate says,**

**“You don’t impress.” Life’s grinding wheel of for-  
tune makes us all a powdered grist. We of-  
fer all our work as payment for a score  
that’s missed. But with you by my side we scoff**

**at all life’s hostile threats, that squander bets  
from all the lost who carry mass regrets.**

**If trials make our roads unsafe and beat**

**us down and out, we’ll reach out to each oth-**

**er so connecting trashes doubt. The neat**

**thing is we feel our hearts, that rage like south-**

**ern heat; they give us proven energy**

**that drives what can’t be beat. We know our lights,**

**that dwell within, will guide and help us see;**

**togetherness, that we now share, gives heights**

**that keep us free. Our joy is what will drive**

**our cares and save us from despair. Our eyes,**

**that focus on our dreams, will keep alive**

**our care. The details will be what we prize**

**as Heaven’s here to stay. Though we may gray,**

**while holding tight, we’ll nudge all fears away.**

**Why am I loved so much by you? You’ve made**

**my heart glow red. I feel your presence all**

**the time, I know where I am led, afraid**

**of nothing by your side, you sweetly call**

**my name. I need you, want you, more and more;**

**I know you need the same. Am I the cup**

**you often fill, or waves upon your shore?**

**How can I give you equal shares, fill up**

**what you implore? All that I am, all that**

**I know is yours, what I can give; I wish**

**to gift you with my love, more than a cat**

**can live: like nine times ninety-nine or dish-**

**ing out what fills your plate, so every date**

**that we live for is greater than what’s great.**

**When we’re together, dearest mine, the world**

**is right and true. All thoughts of loss are pushed**

**aside, our sky’s forever blue; days pearled**

**together, one to one, are like lips smooshed**

**so close; as if we’ll need to breathe again,**

**there’s no such adios. We’ll never fail**

**to share our love, we’re One here now and then.**

**We need each other all the time; all hail,**

**and state, “Amen.” I wish forever be**

**our fate, that all we have remains; that now**

**and here are in our sphere, that we will see**

**refrains; and replays, what the Fates allow,**

**to make sure we have peace, where love’s increase**

**is ever now; it will not ever cease.**

**We come and go, we come and go, we lift**

**each other high. There’s little to depend**

**on here, our hopes are but a sigh. We sift**

**through our possessions, what may help to end**

**our plight: our seven miles distance where**

**we’re parted every night. We wonder at**

**our relevance in God’s relentless prayer.**

**Our fit has never seemed to be, our ‘that’**

**seems never there. And time is ever grind-**

**ing on, while we are bursting love, and find-**

**ing new joys every day that we’re remind-**

**ed of. Though love we know and have, we’re kind**

**of saddened every day; that in life’s frey**

**we’ve failed to share what helps with love’s array.**

**My Dearest Emma, Valentine, you are**

**what is this day, this joyous time which makes   
for love, and roses on display. Your star  
which beacons in my heart, and lightly takes**

**my gaze, forever means I yearn for you  
and offer daily praise. Your glowing smile  
and tender touch that heightened all you do  
makes every moment that we share an isle**

**that’s cast in blue. I love you from the whole  
of me, with all that I am here. I’m blessed  
that you share love with me. You ring my soul  
with cheer, and peace, and hope, and all the rest**

**through wondrous lovely days, where coves and bays  
and beach side stays are like we are always.**

**Monday morning, a cleared sidewalk, one more**

**open time line, silence and wondering,**

**waiting for the clock to grape vine the score:**

**lunch, bills, meetings, those things for gathering.**

**Shelved hopes, kept like holiday decora-**

**tions, stay like dogs, or ropes around open**

**man holes, precautions for unknowns, what stay**

**silly adventures, fun, what we again**

**dream for this day, or tomorrow. At least**

**I know that you, Emma, are here with me,**

**for whatever we may encounter, feast**

**and cheer, or famine and drear. What will be**

**will be, while we hold hands, through life’s demands,**

**stepping cautiously through earth’s shifting sands.**

**You are my all, my all the time, you make**

**my life complete. I do not know what life**

**would be if we were not to meet. I take**

**it you feel just the same, you are the wife**

**I’ve dreamt. Who can I thank this time around,**

**achieved with this attempt? Our blessing’s much**

**more than a gift, a marvel to astound.**

**We stand together, teary eyed, each touch-**

**ing what we’ve found. As much surprised as thank-**

**ful, we continue to hold tight, and smile**

**to each other, as we know it’s frank-**

**ly right. I thank you, as you thank me, while**

**we laugh, and dance, and grin; it’s all within**

**what we have found: this lifetime we begin.**

**The comfort that I have with you is more**

**than meets the eye. I know where you are ev-**

**ery day, like clouds within the sky, like shore**

**that rests upon the sea, like leaves that nev-**

**er fall, like love that lives within my heart,**

**like poems that poets scrawl. You are like dawn,**

**like spring, like sun, like Mother Nature’s art,**

**I have few words that come real close, what’s drawn**

**from Heaven’s cart. I’m blessed to be with you**

**each day, you make me feel so real. I must**

**relate the joy you bring to me, it’s too**

**ideal: like meadows where we will adjust**

**to sitting side by side, where we can glide**

**on porch swing seat, and peacefully subside.**

**Magnificence is who you are, I know**

**this is my mind. I’m not sure why you cope**

**with me, I’m so damned unrefined. It’s so**

**amazing how you love, I only hope**

**to be, as patient with such loving kind-**

**ness: what you share that’s free.  Each day that you**

**amaze me so, I need to ever find,**

**new ways to let you know that my love’s true,**

**as God’s designed. When we’re apart the emp-**

**tiness is more than I can bear. It keeps**

**me longing for your presence:  my redemp-**

**tion’s prayer. How long must I be one who weeps**

**for union to be ours? What Fates and Powers**

**must we beseech to turn Love’s buds to flowers?**

**Regardless of our earthly stays, these Tri-**

**als that we serve, we are as One forev-**

**remore, we have love in reserve. Rely-**

**ing on our Fates to show us how to rev-**

**erence all, and share our joy with God and friends:**

**live at life’s beck and call. There is no way**

**to challenge time, to know our starts and ends.**

**We must fulfill our destinies each day**

**with what life sends. Our hearts and minds are shared**

**in love, we touch and know our ways. You are**

**my ever loving soul, as God’s declared**

**these days. Our lives will be a blazing star**

**that fosters light and grace, where we can face**

**all trials here and brighten time and space.**