Matthew Mumber

the allowing

In the Beginning

there was Dust.

Dust begat dirt.

Dirt allowed ground to sprout into plant,

followed soon by flower, then seed which

begat story.

The stories multiplied, individualized

in silence,

until suddenly one instant,

when a particular green wrapped bud developed

at the very tip of a plant,

the morning dew on its surface

was touched by some one

who had the capacity to share.

Please know

only you

can allow

your nose to sniff

a singular red rose.

Always Give all the Heart

Come and gone, birthday fifty-eight,

gifts of chocolate, a book of Yeats.

Yeats implored-- Never Give all the Heart--

it surely dooms one from the start--

hold back the finest, highest and best,

for fear the other will lose interest--

to give all is a recipe for loss

just look at Jesus and the cross!

My oldest penned a two-page poem

neatly patterned and hand written.

He asked what is father to a son?

Declared what joy just to be born!

No finer words have I come across—

There is no love without some loss.

understanding practice

Sink the soles of the feet

    so deep into the earth

    that toes intertwine

    with the delicate rootlets of every tree.

Stand with outstretched arms

    and shape the spaces between fingers

    until they feel vast enough

    to hold all air and sky.

Beseech this heart

    to produce a flow so bold

    that the blood becomes all blood,

    mingles with all manner of water.

Observe the mind

    change into pilings of unlimited depth

    that support every single perception

    upon a pier of palpable awareness.

why I write poetry

When it comes to our relationship,

Beloved:

I know it.

I know it.

I know

that I know it.

When I try

to share

what I know,

I don't know what to say.

how not to pray:

My god, who exists whenever I inquire,

all powerful be thy name. My kingdom

come,

My will

be done,

wherever

I imagine.

Grant me

the world

I desire

and forgive

me as I

pour down

vengeance

on beings

that dare

oppose me.

Cleanse me of guilt pangs and deliver me

from merciful awareness, forever and ever.