# Life & Death – by Rumi

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look at love  
how it tangles  
with the one fallen in love

look at spirit  
how it fuses with earth  
giving it new life

why are you so busy  
with this or that or good or bad  
pay attention to how things blend

why talk about all  
the known and the unknown  
see how the unknown merges into the known

why think seperately  
of this life and the next  
when one is born from the last

look at your heart and tongue  
one feels but deaf and dumb  
the other speaks in words and signs

look at water and fire  
earth and wind  
enemies and friends all at once

the wolf and the lamb  
the lion and the deer  
far away yet together

look at the unity of this  
spring and winter  
manifested in the equinox

you too must mingle my friends  
since the earth and the sky  
are mingled just for you and me

be like sugarcane  
sweet yet silent  
don't get mixed up with bitter words

my beloved grows  
right out of my own heart  
how much more union can there be



come on sweetheart  
let's adore one another  
before there is no more  
of you and me

a mirror tells the truth  
look at your grim face  
brighten up and cast away  
your bitter smile

a generous friend  
gives life for a friend  
let's rise above this  
animalistic behavior  
and be kind to one another

spite darkens friendships  
why not cast away  
malice from our heart

once you think of me  
dead and gone  
you will make up with me  
you will miss me  
you may even adore me

why be a worshiper of the dead  
think of me as a goner  
come and make up now

since you will come  
and throw kisses  
at my tombstone later  
why not give them to me now  
this is me  
that same person

i may talk too much  
but my heart is silence  
what else can i do  
i am condemned to live this life



i've come again  
like a new year  
to crash the gate  
of this old prison

i've come again  
to break the teeth and claws  
of this man-eating  
monster we call life

i've come again  
to puncture the  
glory of the cosmos  
who mercilessly  
destroys humans

i am the falcon  
hunting down the birds  
of black omen  
before their flights

i gave my word  
at the outset to  
give my life  
with no qualms  
i pray to the Lord  
to break my back  
before i break my word

how do you dare to  
let someone like me  
intoxicated with love  
enter your house

you must know better  
if i enter  
i'll break all this and  
destroy all that

if the sheriff arrives  
i'll throw the wine  
in his face  
if your gatekeeper  
pulls my hand  
i'll break his arm

if the heavens don't go round  
to my heart's desire  
i'll crush its wheels and  
pull out its roots

you have set up  
a colorful table  
calling it life and  
asked me to your feast  
but punish me if  
i enjoy myself

what tyranny is this



you mustn't be afraid of death  
you're a deathless soul  
you can't be kept in a dark grave  
you're filled with God's glow

be happy with your beloved  
you can't find any better  
the world will shimmer  
because of the diamond you hold

when your heart is immersed  
in this blissful love  
you can easily endure  
any bitter face around

in the absence of malice  
there is nothing but  
happiness and good times  
don't dwell in sorrow my friend

Translated by Nader Khalili "[Rumi, Fountain of Fire](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1889625035/greecethracemi0e/)"  
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