

## Miles

I walked a mile for you  
I walked ten miles for you  
I walked one hundred miles to you  
I walked the miles until the roads ran out  
Until the earth ended and the ocean began  
And then I swam until my breath was spent  
And down I went  
Until I was rising up and up  
And the sky accepted me  
And the love propelled me  
It never left  
Until it was all that remained  
Transcendent  
Invisible  
It became the world  
The ether  
It lived in eternity - a part of the atmosphere  
A feeling  
An idea – fulfillment  
A final euphoric completeness

## Threads

Thirty years it's called me  
Crowding my mind insistently  
Eternally  
Until there is no choice but to go

And now all I see is smooth, unbroken sand  
Covering a rumor of footprints  
From long ago  
Now washed over  
Filled in  
Did he really once walk this beach  
With the clear blue water rolling in  
Did he look skyward and see  
A true and hopeful sky  
Offering enormity  
A world of possibility  
A reason to walk away from us  
To someplace else

Dreams were foreign to him  
Unrecognizable and out of reach  
But a man without dreams is a man unseen  
His ghostly image becomes unrecognizable

I struggle to remember  
My mind tucks it away  
Piece by piece he's been erased  
Until he never existed

The torture of sleep fights me each night -  
Occasionally it surrenders, or gets bored  
And then I hear him  
When I can't even remember his voice -

*When we have lost the ability to dream  
To believe in dreams  
When we have lost the faith  
And trust has disappeared  
Like a memory of smoke from a campfire long gone  
When hope seems so far removed  
We must rise once more  
When we have stopped caring  
We must open our hearts again*

I wake holding something I swear is heavy  
In my hand  
It must be some kind of talisman -  
That one true answer intended  
Just for me

I open my hand  
To a ragged bunch of threads

## **Burn**

You live your life  
Just to burn  
And burn again

Casting light and roaring heat  
Roaring heart  
That few can stand  
But yet crave  
The nearness of you

The pain is yours alone  
Unsold  
Unshared

The fire light burns intensely  
Then out  
*Enough*  
Enough fires, enough light

Still -

Your essence intoxicates them  
Lifts them  
Awakens them

## One More Song

An October night sky too bright  
A moon too filled with false promise, offers no warning  
No apology.  
While full desperation plays out down below.  
Oblivion waits.

Drunken drives not remembered  
Darkened country roads.  
Is tonight the night  
Will that heavy curtain finally drop?

She sits downstairs,  
While upstairs, pills lined up on the counter.  
Sleep beckons, sleep taunts, sleep denies.  
Piles of three, one by one.  
No plan, no thoughts at all,  
Just another unintended mistake.

The siren never sounded, a lost cause  
The ambulance speeds down empty freeways  
Carrying his stilled body.  
Breathing tubes and early morning phone calls,  
The family assembles,  
Drawn from sleep and pushed  
So many miles through the dark.

And she stands folding his clothes.  
As he is wheeled out the door.  
She waits for something to do.

The fragility of life,  
The permanence of death.  
Wandering into the ether.  
Has the time finally come,  
To escape those enemies of dreams?  
To leave his song unsung?

A vacant dreamless night,  
The abyss slowly fades  
Her voice in his ear  
Calling him back.  
Death stands behind his shoulder  
And grudgingly disappears.  
And maybe  
His song will be yet sung

## **Black Water**

It's quiet  
Except for the sound of the solitary rowing of the boat  
As I steal into the night across the dark  
Paddling  
My arms ache and I cannot see the way  
But I know I must go on  
Looking for the light that you left on  
Across the water

One last time  
That you'll have to go to bed afraid  
That you'll walk into those doors  
I'm gonna swing them open wide  
You'll walk out the front  
And we'll glide back across this black water  
The cool comfort of the dark will swallow us  
We will be together  
No answers, No promises  
Just asylum  
Maybe you'll love me someday  
Maybe I'll turn into the picture  
You've got in your heart  
For now I bring you the key  
That you must turn in your prison without bars