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All Poems written by Charles Ellsworth Smith

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This volume of poetry is dedicated to my wife Mary

Until the Whole World Dances

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Dearest Love,
    as far as the patterns of my life,
there is nothing new to share
    but I would love to share
    a glass of wine, the ocean foam, a beautiful sunset,
    the sound of seagulls crying and the violin shout of
    birds in dawns' half light
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I would like to share a cool mountain breeze, A swim in a lake warm enough for you to swim Perhaps a mountain stream after hiking for an hour.

I would lie down in autumn leaves with you, the reds and yellows spilling over your dress and laughing see the clouds touch and pass through one another glistening a diamond surprise

> I would feel a wind with you and touch its' fleeting rushing sigh in trees swaying, breathing beneath the sky

Together we could feel a hill
as arm in armwe plunge
down and down,
pell mell,
like children
in the castle of our hearts
and rolling down the last part
l pick you up and
spin you around
until the whole world dances.

Eternal Life's Reward



l found myself waiting for you on the bridge

Your hair billowing in the wind

Reflections in the lake below

Reminding me

Our dreams must

Someday end.

How sad this moment

Might have seemed so many years before

Now Lord you have rescued me

Eternal life's reward.

Without a Backward Glance

to Mary - at 12,000 feet reflecting on our dinner the night before.



Winter is passing
Softly comes the summer wind singing.
A lantern flickers on the terrace
As you rise to grret me,
On eagle's wings
A world of truth rushes to join us.
Strobe light memories
Sequence through our gaze
As in a breath
A thousand other days replay

What is this roar Like ocean tide inside Washing, storming, breaking Tears release me to your heart.

Our hands meet
Our bodies touch,
I hear you say
"It is not what you are
but who you are
that has joined me to you."

Can it really be Yes it is Destiny, the Master's plan Has placed your hand in mine. As we reflect,
Do not forget
As others have and taken flight,
This moment's cost
Cannot be fully bought without the sacrifice
Of prayer and praise and faith invested.

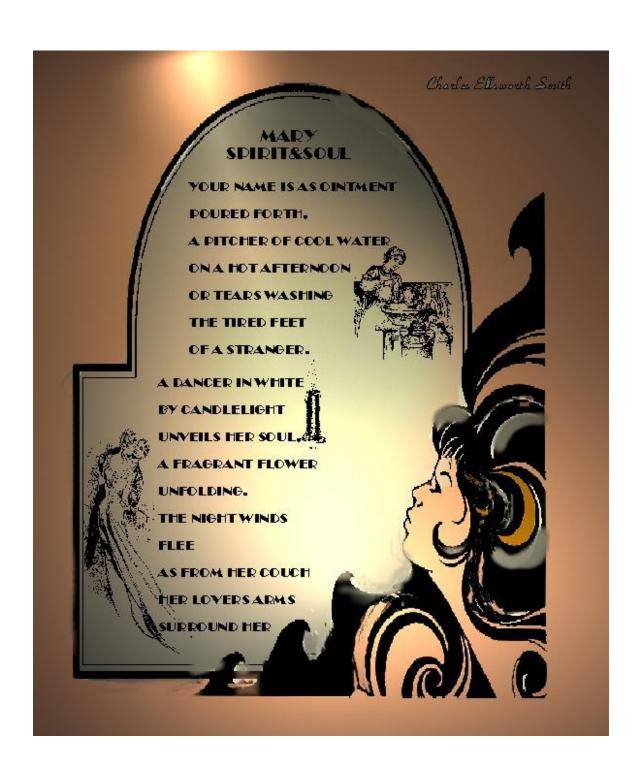
It is not the meal before us
Or the place that makes this special,
It is the commitment of two eternal souls
To walk one road
Without a backward glance.



Intimacy

Sitting at a small café
remembering
As a fresh June arrives
the richness of last
summer
And all that has
transpired

Intimacy is the word
that succeeds
when all else fails
How the flesh
battles against this love
It is the spirit
that prevails



I WANT TO GO ON LIVING

Dearest friend of my heart,

I want to go on living because I have eternal life given to me by Jesus Christ who loves me with a love I can only comprehend in flashes of lightning, tears of sorrow and simple things that only love can see.

I want to go on living because of a cosmic plan that is so infinite in scope it includes you and me and brings us together like two tiny atoms without which the greater plan would be cheapened.

Without a love like ours the stars would lose their shining. The moons' light would be a moonstone frozen in a still life night.

I want to go on living so the song we sing may take its' wings and wake a sleeping dying world to bathe in loves purity.

I want to go on living because
what lies ahead
is greater than the years behind
and unlike Don Quixote,
I will not chase what seems a windmill quest
for truth and love
but stand by grace, a warrior strong
upon Zions holy hill, my lady by my side,
awaiting trumpets' call to sound the end
of times' impoverished dream.