

About the Poem

After I had written my previous poem, "Turning," in January 2004, I knew that I had an even longer story to tell. But back then I couldn't see the full story in my future, the story that led me through my change in gender. Half a year of struggle passed when suddenly on a very beautiful summer day I found a way to say what I wanted. It was as if I had been struck from above when this poem flew freely from me like an early spring rill.

As soon as I discovered how to tell my story, I also became keenly aware of what I had to do about my situation. It was like waking up one day to start a new life. I felt a distinct calmness, a sense of peace and satisfaction like a flower finally finding its way to the surface of the earth. And like a flower opening and for the first time showing itself, that day I felt the clear open air give me new strength to carry on.

Awakening can be wonderful, but it can be scary too. I wrote this poem to convey these feelings and, above all, to share some sort of comfort and hope. A change in gender does take its toll on everyone involved, but the rewards that follow are not for you alone; they are for everyone near and dear to share. And you need to know that shared joy is the seal that makes relationships last.

Awakening is like a drop falling from heaven, spreading ripples on what appears to be a calm sea. As the ripples stir the surface, they disrupt old reflections from the past to let a new, clear, and much deeper reflection come through.

Awakening marks the start of a journey. As with any journey, you don't want to travel alone. 🦋

Awakening is about understanding, as well as hopes for others' understanding too.

yours sincerely, Li Sam



Awakening

a wish for a future

*You've found the path that shows you where to go.
The truth is there, a truth you didn't know.
The girl within brings both comfort and relief.
She is showing a way out from all your grief.
She reaches for your hand, and you just give in.
You have nothing to lose but everything to win.
Your life becomes visible beyond all belief.
You feel it in your soul, deep down beneath.*

*Following your new path, you follow yourself;
There are no references, no books on the shelf.
To learn, you must know your true self from the start
And that this new path may tear relations apart.
There are no turnings, no way back anymore.
The path leads forward; there is only one door.*

*What before was improper and forbidden to do,
Irrelevant is now; you just have to go.
Leaving safety, family, and friends behind,
There is no one else but you yourself to find.
The girl within brings both pleasure and doubt.
You don't doubt yourself, but the way you stand out.
Looking in a mirror, is that really you?
You search and find a vision of a clue.*

*Confidence in yourself and the way you look,
Safely brings back what manhood took.
Even though sorrow and age made their marks,
The girl is undamaged, and her youth still sparks.
You may be rejected and seen as a fool,
But the girl brings joy and peace to your soul.*

