

POETRY

THESE BEAUTIFUL LOVE GAMES

Young lovers wisely say,

"Let's try it from this angle,
Maybe something marvelous will happen,

Maybe three suns and two moons
Will roll out
From a hiding place in the body
Our passion has yet to ignite."

Old lovers say,
"We can do it one more time,
How about from this longitude
And latitude--

Swinging from a rope tied to the ceiling,

Maybe a part of God
Is still hiding in a corner of your heart
Our devotion has yet to reveal."

Bottom line:

Do not stop playing
These beautiful
Love
Games.

- from "The Gift" by Hafiz

DHARMA

Buddha's Final Teaching

"Make of yourself a light. Rely upon yourself. Do not depend upon anyone else. Make my teachings your light. Rely upon them. Do not depend on others' teachings."

-Buddha

Quick Reminder

Ever tried. Ever failed. No mater. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.
-Samuel Beckett

Look Into Your Hand

I have a friend who is an artist. Before he left Vietnam forty years ago, his mother held his hand and told him, "Whenever you miss me, look into your hand, and you will see me immediately." How penetrating these simple words!

Over the years, my friend looked into his hand many times. The presence of his mother is not just genetic. Her spirit, her hopes, and her life are also in him. When he looks into his hand, he can see thousands of generations before him and thousands of generations after him. He can see that he exists not only in the evolutionary tree branching along the axis of time, but also in the network of interdependent relations. He told me that he never feels lonely.

When my niece came to visit me last summer, I offered her "Look into Your Hand" as a subject for her meditation. I told her that every pebble, every leaf, and every butterfly are present in her hand.

-Thich Nhat Hanh