**Return from Life Out From Under the Wheel**

*1970*

Time only smiles as it steels my youth,

The world laughs aloud as it bids for my soul,

Not a century's grace from the egg to the dust,

With my freedom, my love, my heart as life's toll.

Should I know only paths that my fathers have blessed?

Drink only from streams that have nourished my home?

Must I sell all my sun and grieve for the rest,

Or does life flow as truth to the call of its own?

Once tasting your mountains, the joy of your sky,

Knowing peace in the arms of a whole day of life,

Finding fairer tomorrows will not save sick todays,

And the years never kill like the seconds of strife.

Your pledge gives me courage, your breath gave me song,

Though our city-bound lives wither slow with our lungs,

My hours spent in freedom live safe in my soul,

Precious. Delicious. Eternally young.