**TO A RELUCTANT FRIEND**

This orb of water, earth and air and sun.

A nest for souls whose temporary spheres

Of blood and bone and flesh all share as one.

One mind with countless brethren through the years.

One mind but not one body. Alas I see.

Your sphere of woman’s beauty, wit, and grace.

Hears my poor heart’s song but turns and flees.

Fears the ancient masculine embrace.

Cast off for just one moment all those clouds.

Let spirits touch. Embrace. Be not meek.

This empty void. No answer. Silent as the shroud.

Belies your basic worth. Can we merely speak?

We share a world. Just share a thought.

A moment on this journey through the veil.

With lips and eyes and ears and soul and mind.

Take heart. Share a simple friendship with a male.

*PHILLIP PAUL. 03/25/1997*

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