

## *The Invitation*

*It doesn't interest me what you do for a living.*

*I want to know what you ache for*

*and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.*

*I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your dreams, for the  
adventure of being alive.*

*It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon.*

*I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow,*

*if you have been opened by life's betrayals or*

*have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain!*

*I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine and your own;*

*if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you*

*to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful,*

*be realistic, or to remember the limitations of being human.*

*It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true.*

*I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself;*

*if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul.*

*I want to know if you can be faithful and be therefore trustworthy.*

*I want to know if you can see beauty*

*even when it is not pretty every day*

*and if you can source your life from God's presence.*

*I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine*

*and still stand on the edge of a lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, "YES!"*

*It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you have.*

*I want to know if you can get up after the night of grief and despair*

*weary and bruised to the bone and do what needs to be done for the children.*

*It does not interest me who you are or how you came to be here.*

*I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back.*

*It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied.*

*I want to know what sustains you from the inside when all else falls away.*

*I want to know if you can be alone with yourself*

*and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.*

*Oriah Mountain Dreamer, Native Elder (Canada)*