

Opal Palmer Adisa

BOTH SIDES



I don't know when it was that I realized, nor do I
suppose that it matters.

truly it matters
everything having
to do with the heart
matters

Only a woman bent on suicide would fall in love. The
very description – fall in—signals a fatal act.

i have known
the tragedy
of love

Not predisposed to suffering, I am not a woman in need
of or even desirous of love. It is no more than the
car I drive. I handle it, directing it where I am
heading. Who would relinquish a finger for an
ice-cream bar?

tears bathed my face
i prayed that death
should seek me
when he abandoned me
for another

I am not swayed by the opinion of others whose views
are often mitigated by their own selfish need to

bolster their fledging ego or assuage their own
feelings of being unloved.

i didn't know
what need was
until i met him

I seek the wick that burns clean the din that says
every woman should love herself secondary to the one
who loves her.

i would gladly
forego who i am
to his custody

and yet it is said
there is no joy
in the cup of life
if there is no love

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