

Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park

Three by Rumi



Don't turn from the delight
that is so close at hand!
Don't find some lame excuse
to leave our gathering.
You were a lonely grape *
and now you are sweet wine.
There is no use in trying to become a grape again.



Our garden is filled with nightingales
The crows have flown away.
Now we can see the flowers of your garden.
Like a lily we come out of ourselves, *
Like a babbling brook
we dance from one paradise to the next.

In the lover's heart is a lute
Which plays the melody of longing.

You say he looks crazy *
That's only because your ears are not tuned
to the music by which he dances.



Jalaluddin Rumi (1207-1273)
trans. from Persian by Jonathan Star

Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park, an urban poetry walk, is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library with assistance from the Takoma Park Department of Public Works. Designs of the poetry are by students at the School of Art and Design at Montgomery College. For more information about the Friends, visit www.FTPML.org.

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