

# **BATTLE WITH YOUR SOUL**

**By Rose DeClemente  
Country Villa  
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**At night I see the rockets bursting in the sky  
A soldier praying softly, Dear God, Don't let me die  
I'm fighting for my country, I'm fighting for my land  
Yesterday I was a child, Today I am a man**

**We walked along the hillside, buildings burning bright  
Some of us will never live to see another night  
I hear voices shouting, Fire straight ahead  
Another bullet flying, Another soldier dead**

**They say the battles over, They say that we have won  
We have gained our freedom, She has lost her son  
Lay that rifle down, my friend, Try to understand  
It takes a lot more courage to love your fellow man**

**Lord, how I wonder, who taught them how to hate  
Sometimes you never know a man until its just too late  
Trenches filled with wounded, Bodies lying cold  
It's more than just a gunfight, It's a battle with your soul**

**October 2006**

## **BIRDS OF A FEATHER**

**By Rose De Clemente  
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**I recently hung out my sign of a nest-for-rent when someone pecked at my door. There before me was a full-feathered bird with a range of colors. She was obviously new to the neighborhood and she looked very concerned and tired from flying.**

**Not mincing any words, she asked me about the nest. She hesitantly told me about her circumstances and why she needed a home. She shared an apartment with a couple of wrens and their friends, two local sparrows. They kept her up quite often. While flying around, she saw my ad and proceeded to my house. I quickly showed her the tree.**

**It was a lovely nest, in a lovely tree, it had access to most major branches and many leaves to protect her in the rainy season. The day after she moved in I brought her some colored strings and straw to help her decorate her new home.**

**I explained about the previous tenants keeping me up late each night. I told her that she couldn't have wild parties. She quickly mentioned that most of her friends were night owls and she would keep them quiet. Things went well for a few months until she gave me notice that she planned to move. She met someone at a concert in Florida and planned to marry. She then apologized and explained that a bird in the band is better than two in the bush.**

**ONCE AGAIN NEST-FOR-RENT**

**October 2006**

## FLIGHT OF THE TURTLE

A DIFFERENT LIFE IT OFTEN SEEMS THOUGHTS  
BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS TO RISE ABOVE  
THIS LITTLE TOWN IT'S ME UP HERE, I'M  
LOOKING DOWN

THE THINGS THAT SEEMED SO BIG AND TALL ARE  
SUDDENLY SO VERY SMALL THE THINGS THAT  
ONCE WERE OUT OF REACH LOOK NOW LIKE  
PEBBLES ON THE BEACH

I ALWAYS HOPED I'D SAY WITH PRIDE THIS  
TIME I'M ON THE OTHER SIDE BUT LIFE IS  
JUST THE SAME I FOUND WHEN I HAD FOUR  
FEET ON THE GROUND

YOUR HAPPINESS MUST COME FROM YOU AND  
NOT ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW FOR HAPPINESS  
IS NO SURPRISE IF YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR  
FORTUNE LIES

Rose De Clemente 2007

## LEMAT

THE VILLAGE FOOL AS ONE WOULD SAY  
WHO SITS ALONE WHILE OTHERS PLAY  
OBLIVIOUS TO NIGHT OR DAY LEMAT

NO TRUER CHALLENGE YOU WILL FIND FOR  
THOSE WHO CONTEMPLATE HIS MIND A  
SIMPLETON OF EVERY KIND LE MAT

HE SEEKS NO FORTUNE ONE CAN CLAIM HE  
DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A NAME AND STILL  
YOU PLAY HIS FOOLISH GAME LEMAT

THO SITTING THERE FOR ALL TO SEE  
YOU SENSE HIS QUIET MOCKERY HE'S  
WISER STILL THAN YOU OR ME LEMAT

## I'VE ONLY BUT TO LOOK AT YOU

I'VE ONLY BUT TO LOOK AT YOU TO SEE  
THE SADNESS IN YOUR EYES TO SEE THE  
PAIN THAT ONCE AGAIN MUST EVER BE  
SO HIDDEN

AND FURTHER STILL INTO YOUR SOUL I SEE THE  
REASON WHY YOU CRY LIKE DROPS OF DEW YET  
TAINING YOU WITH THOUGHTS THAT ARE  
FORBIDDEN

I'VE ONLY BUT TO TOUCH YOUR HAND TO FEEL  
THE TREMBLINGS OF YOUR HEART TO LOVE ME ,  
YET WITH SOME REGRET THE WORDS CANNOT  
BE SPOKEN

I'VE ONLY BUT TO LAY WITH YOU TO  
KNOW WHAT KEEPS US SO APART THO  
TENDERLY ASSURING ME YOUR VOWS  
WILL NOT BE BROKEN

I'VE ONLY BUT TO CALL YOUR NAME  
AND MEMORIES RETURN TO YOU OF  
HOW IN SPRING YOU USED TO SING YOU  
CURSE THE FATE DENIED YOU

AND ONCE AGAIN YOU COME TO ME A GLIMPSE  
OF HAPPINESS IN VIEW IF LOVE BE KIND, AT  
LEAST YOU'LL FIND THAT I'LL BE HERE BESIDE  
YOU

## **THE MAD GARDENER**

### **patience with patience**

**The Mad Gardener relocated from Tennessee to California and brought a few plants, one tree named Benji (a Ficus Benjamina), one plant was a corn plant named Franklin, and the fern (Boston) was called Kennedy.**

**Benji was known as the town gossip!**

**The fern came only to be disappointed when he found out most of the other ferns were raised in Florida. Franklin was surprised that he had to adjust to California weather.**

**Benji was shocked when he realized that the long road trip caused him to lose most of his leaves. You can't move a Benjamina around to different locations without some consequences.**

**The plants actually live with the Litwinskis in Mission Viejo and visit me for a week or so at a time.**

**I also brought Rhodes (a Dracena Marginata). He has a red stripe down his leaf and is a retired army sergeant still fighting somewhere or another.**

**One day when Benji was taking a stroll, he met a fine young Cineraria named Candy Stripe Louise who was in love with a Poinsettia. She was suspicious when he was half pink and half red. She suspected he had been fooling around. As a child, he told me, he was called Pinky. The father only visited in December.**

**Not wanting to get involved, he eventually met a Schepphalera called the Umbrella Tree. They went out for a couple of months and it started to look serious when she introduced him to her cousin called Scarce. He seldom came to visit. Meanwhile, Rhodes was suspicious of every plant he never knew first.**

**Rhodes became upset when the Umbrella Tree ran away from the service by running off to Canada. He thought he could buy pills cheaper, but he didn't say what kind.**

**Benji came to visit me at a bingo game. He couldn't stand one player who constantly complained that she was warm, but she always wore a shawl. Either she is a member of the Hard of Hearing Club or just an irritating person.**

**Meanwhile, Benji came home to find Franklin's leaves were half green and half yellow. Thinking he did not get enough water, Rhodes gave him green food coloring while Benji was gone. Rhodes had a tape of summer baseball and Franklin thought it was fall and his leaves started to turn yellow. The truth is that his leaves will turn in winter when he does not have enough water.**

**Rhodes could not understand and he went to his room to think about it. When he had the radio on, he heard Lance Armstrong and his fiancés were separating. Somehow, it seems that love affairs don't last very long. Good thing he can't take love very seriously.**

**I explained to Benji that he was being too critical. He said that he decided to give Bingo another chance. He saw a foreigner who passed herself off as an old timer from America. Yet her English as an old timer was somewhat modicum to say the least. She took two cards and her excuse was that she didn't know any better.**

**She could win with one or the other. She was the secretary of the Hard of Hearing Club, if you know what I mean.**

**I told Benji he didn't have to attend anymore. At least the cooking class was something else. You had a selection of either Mexican or Philippino, and on occasion American food. Their recipes were quite different, but food is food.**

**I brought in a professional to watch them every two weeks. He wasn't very familiar with Mr. Congo, a Venus Fly Trap, who had an appetite for flies. He couldn't handle a whole one, so we almost lost Mr. Congo.**

**Mr. Congo was greedy and thought he could handle the whole fly and almost choked to death. I think greed is a qualification for a few patients.**

## THE WRATH OF GRAPES

ALONE, AT LAST, IN QUESTIONED MOOD YOU  
DWELL IN LIQUID SOLITUDE TO GATHER  
CONFIDENCE, YOU THINK WITH FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT IN EVERY DRINK

WHO'S THERE TO KNOW WHAT YOU WILL DO  
WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES CONQUER YOU YOUR  
JUDGEMENT LEANING HARD ON TRUST  
FORGIVE THEM, YES, INDEED YOU MUST

THE DAWN SO SWIFTLY ON IT'S WAY AND  
FEEBLENESS OF MIND AT PLAY  
TOMORROW, IN ANOTHER LIGHT YOU'LL  
SURELY JUSTIFY YOUR PLIGHT \*~

A VINTAGE YEAR SHOULD HELP SUPPRESS THIS  
UNRELENTING SELF DISTRESS FOR LACK OF  
COURAGE, YOU SHALL WAIT HOW WILL YOU  
SCORE THIS GAME OF FATE

BEWARE, MY FRIEND, I SAY  
BEWARE THE WRATH OF  
GRAPES IS ALWAYS THERE

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## SOMEBODY UP THERE LOVES ME

SOMEBODY UP THERE LOVES ME  
AND WATCHES WHATEVER I DO  
HE GIVES ME THE STRENGTH TO START ONCE AGAIN  
AFTER I THOUGHT I WAS THROUGH

SOMEBODY UP THERE HELPS ME  
WHEN I HAVE A SORROW TO BEAR  
AND SOMEHOW I FEEL HIS PRESENCE IS REAL  
AND IT'S REALLY HIS SORROW I SHARE

FOR WHO IN THIS WORLD  
CAN STAND ON HIS OWN  
AND GATHER THE STARS  
ALL ALONE, ALL ALONE

LIFE IS A GIFT TO BE TREASURED YOU MUST  
LEARN TO LOVE AND FORGIVE YES  
SOMEBODY UP THERE LOVES ME AND I'LL  
THANK HIM AS LONG AS I LIVE

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## SNOWTIME

EVERYTIME I SEE IT SNOW I GRAB MY  
SLED AND SAY LET'S GO THEN MY MOM  
SAYS A WORD OR TWO THINK OF WHAT A  
LOVELY VIEW

YOU HAVE A BLANKET COLD AND WHITE IT'S  
MORE THAN FUN RIGHT THERE IN SIGHT AND  
THINK OF ALL THE ROADS THEY CLOG IT'S JUST  
AS DANGEROUS AS FOG

BUT MOTHER NAURE THINKS IT'S COOL PERHAPS  
THEY'LL CLOSE THE PATH TO SCHOOL AND YOU  
CAN HAVE SUCH FUN EACH DAY NO MORE  
CLASS, IT'S TIME TO PLAY

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## SNOWFLAKES

SNOWFLAKES THAT TELL A STORY AS  
THEY TOUCH THE GROUND SPEAKING  
SOFTLY WINTER'S COMING BUT THERE IS  
NO SOUND

I ALSO HAVE A STORY  
AND IT MUST BE TOLD  
OLD MAN WINTER WILL YOU HELP ME  
HELP ME SNOW FIND THE WORDS

WISE MEN WITH ALL THEIR TREASURES  
AREN'T ENOUGH IT'S TRUE FOR I FIND  
THE GREATEST GIFT IS SIMPLY LOVING  
YOU

IN TIME THE SNOW WILL LEAVE US  
WATCH IT MELT AWAY AND OUR LOVE  
WILL LAST FOREVER YOU CAN MAKE IT  
STAY

I LOVE YOU IS ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY

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## SECOND THOUGHTS

TO LIVE A LIFE OF MERE PRETENSE YOU  
RATIONALIZE IN SELF DEFENSE AND THERE  
ARE THOSE TOO BLIND TO SEE YOU HAVE TO  
FACE REALITY

LIFE FALTERS WITH EACH PASSING STEP AND  
THERE IS MUCH WE MUST ACCEPT TO  
CONQUER EVERY DAY YOU LIVE WHAT DID  
YOU TAKE, WHAT DID YOU GIVE

WHAT DID YOU OFFER IN RETURN  
WHEN SOMEONE SHOWED YOU THEIR CONCERN  
AND SO MY FRIEND I CHANCE TO SAY  
YOUR CONSCIENCE LOOKED THE OTHER WAY

SO PLAN YOUR LIFE UNSELFISHLY YOU'RE  
ONLY WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO BE AND NO ONE  
HAS TO ANSWER TO THE LIFE THAT MUST BE  
LIVED BY YOU

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## MY SON MY SON

THERE IS A STORY MY SON, MY SON  
MY FATHER ONCE TOLD TO ME MAN IS  
THE MASTER OF HIS FATE WHAT KIND  
OF MAN WILL YOU BE

LIFE IS A CHALLENGE MY SON, MY SON AND IT  
IS CONQUERED BY FEW I'M HERE TO GUIDE  
YOU ALONG THE WAY AND THAT IS THE BEST I  
CAN DO

GOD GAVE YOU LIFE, I'LL GIVE YOU LOVE  
BUT YOU ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE TO LIVE  
THERE'S SO MUCH TO SHARE AND FEW PEOPLE CARE  
WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOU ALSO MUST GIVE

THAT IS THE STORY MY SON, MY SON  
TRY TO REMEMBER IT WELL  
SOMEDAY WHEN YOU HAVE A SON OF YOUR OWN  
YOU'LL HAVE THIS STORY TO TELL

JUST PLACE HIM GENTLY ON YOUR KNEE AND  
TELL HIM THIS STORY FOR ME

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## LITTLE GIRL

DO YOU KNOW LITTLE GIRL?  
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING?  
CAN YOU MAKE IT ON YOUR OWN?  
AND ALTHOUGH LITTLE GIRL  
DEEP INSIDE YOU'RE STILL GROWING  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GROW ALL ALONE

LOVE IS MORE THAN A GIFT  
IT'S A FEELING YOU SHARE  
WHEN YOU'RE PLANNING A FUTURE ?  
YOU BOTH HAVE TO CARE

DO YOU KNOW LITTLE GIRL?  
BROKEN HEARTS CAN BE MENDED  
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BEGIN  
A MISTAKE ISN'T RIGHT JUST BECAUSE YOU DEFEND IT  
YOU MAY HAVE TO LOSE JUST TO WIN

LOVE IS GOOD AND IT'S REAL AND IT  
OFTEN BRINGS SORROW YOU MAY FIND  
LOVE IS BLIND BUT THERE'S ALWAYS  
TOMORROW I WISH YOU THE BEST IN  
THE WORLD THE REST IS UP TO YOU  
LITTLE GIRL

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## LILACS

I THINK OF YOU AND LILACS WHEN  
MORNING FILLS THE AIR AND THO  
THE LILACS LEAVE US THE  
THOUGHT OF YOU IS THERE

I THINK OF YOU AND SUNSHINE  
AND WHEN THE SUN HAS SET I  
CAN'T RECALL THE SUNSHINE BUT  
YOU I CAN'T FORGET

IT OFTEN MAKES ME WONDER  
HOW LONELY LIFE CAN BE  
WITHOUT SOMEONE TO CARE FOR  
OR SHARE A MEMORY

I THINK OF YOU AND LOVE YOU OH  
HOW MY HEART DOES YEARN FOR  
WHEN YOU ARE BESIDE ME THE  
LILACS WILL RETURN

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## IN OTHER WORDS

INTERPRETATION AT ITS BEST CAN BE  
AN EDUCATED GUESS IF WE CONFINE  
OUR POINT OF VIEW TO ONLY WHAT WE  
KNOW AS TRUE

I'M MUCH AFRAID THE COUP DE GRAS IS  
NOT CONCLUSIONS WE MAY DRAW BUT  
HOW YOU MIGHT COMMUNICATE AND  
HOW TO OTHERS YOU RELATE

AND IF THE WORDS WE TRY TO HEAR  
TRANSLATE AN AWKWARD BECHE DE MER  
SUBCONCIOUSLY WE BID ADIEU TO WHAT YOUR  
CONSCIENCE KNOWS IS TRUE

SUCH WORDS CREATE A MENTAL SCENE FOR  
THOSE WHO MERELY THRIVE ON DREAMS AND  
YET BEYOND YOUR FANTASY EXISTS THE CRUEL  
REALITY

THAT TRUTH CANNOT BE SET ASIDE TO  
CAMOUFLAGE A WOUNDED PRIDE AND SO AS  
LONG AS YOU SHALL LIVE TAKE NO MORE THAN  
YOU CHOOSE TO GIVE

IN OTHER WORDS, I SAY TO YOU WHEN IT'S  
TOO LATE WHAT'S LEFT TO DO BUT GIVE  
YOUR WEARY SOUL A GLANCE OF ONE WHO  
WOULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE

Rose

## I ALSO CRY

YOU SIT ALONE IN QUIET FEAR  
THAT STRANGERS MIGHT OBSERVE A TEAR  
NO FAULT OR FAME  
SHOULD BRING YOU SHAME  
I ALSO CRY

DON'T LET ANOTHER CHOOSE TO SAY  
WHAT OFTEN CAUSES YOUR DISMAY A  
SIMPLE FOOL BREEDS RIDICULE I ALSO  
CRY

FOR SORROW CAN BE SUCH A LOSS IF  
YOU MUST BEAR IT AS A CROSS I  
KNOW YOU GRIEVE AND WHEN YOU  
LEAVE I ALSO CRY .'

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## TELL HIM IT'S GOODBYE

TELL HIM TELL HIM THAT I'M LEAVING  
THOI MAY STILL LOVE HIM OUR AFFAIR IS THROUGH  
HE WON'T NO HE WON'T BELIEVE ME  
MUST BE ON MY WAY NOW  
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO

WE HAD MANY HAPPY MOMENTS  
AND IT ISN'T EASY KNOWING  
THEY ARE GONE  
LET ME TAKE ALONG THE MEMORIES  
THAT IS ALL I HAVE NOW SO I MUST MOVE ON

TELL HIM TELL HIM THAT'S OVER \*

I MAY NOT FORGET HIM BUT I HAVE TO TRY  
WE CAN'T EVER START AGAIN NOW  
THO WE'LL STILL BE FRIENDS TELL HIM IT'S GOODBYE  
TELL HIM IT'S GOODBYE

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