

## II. So, Little Rabbit

So, little rabbit, got you!  
 I'll hold you down  
 And kiss you anyway.  
 You won't escape  
 My bear love so easily—  
 I see the half-hid smile  
 Beneath the playful  
 Struggle to escape.  
 I cling now; I know  
 Soon you'll be too old for this,  
 Except in ceremony.  
 But I will always steal in  
 While you sleep here  
 To inhale your hair's  
 Fragrance, measure your breath's  
 Calm raid on my senses.



## III. Awaken

The universe was once music  
 And stories were visions  
 Of innocence and joy  
 And the inherent beauty of the sun.

In dance we found new rhythms,  
 Discovered how to move, to dream  
 In the shifting space between us,  
 And await the slow approach of longing.

Every friend was a melody  
 Seeking a new voice—  
 Holding her hand was so new,  
 And we made that first loving choice.

And then suddenly it appeared—  
 That dream in harmony  
 With this world, with life itself,  
 And we shared that sacred dream in song.

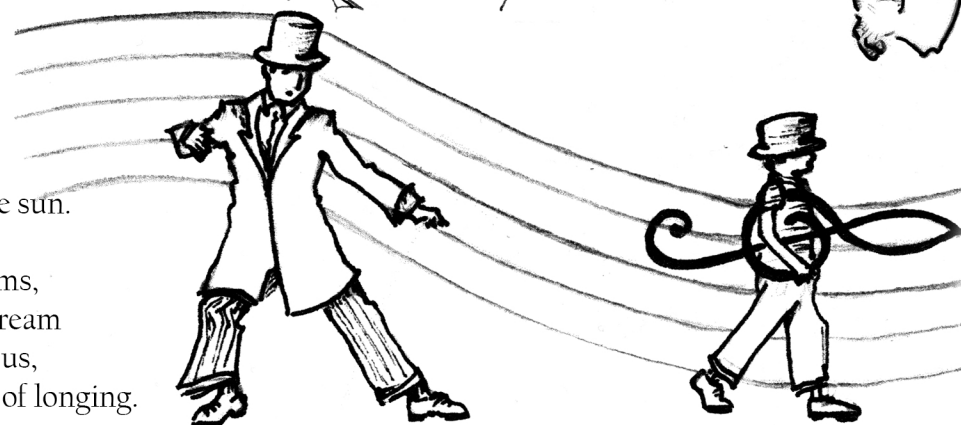
## I. Little Fish

Your first breath seemed  
 To me the breath of God.  
 Pale and pure, it flooded  
 The surface of my face.

As you hesitated that moment  
 Head turning up, body still buried  
 In your mother's flesh,  
 The land of my heart formed.

Your eyes opened—skies appeared.  
 Restless, to taunt the spirit,  
 Your shoulder lifted within  
 And a whole, perfect image

Slipped from sea to air.  
 Then all things formed about you,  
 Little fish writhing in first light,  
 Little angel of my heart.



William Wallis, November 13, 2013  
 "Five Poems on Fatherhood"  
 (No. 5 edited by DVM and BW, 11-17-13)

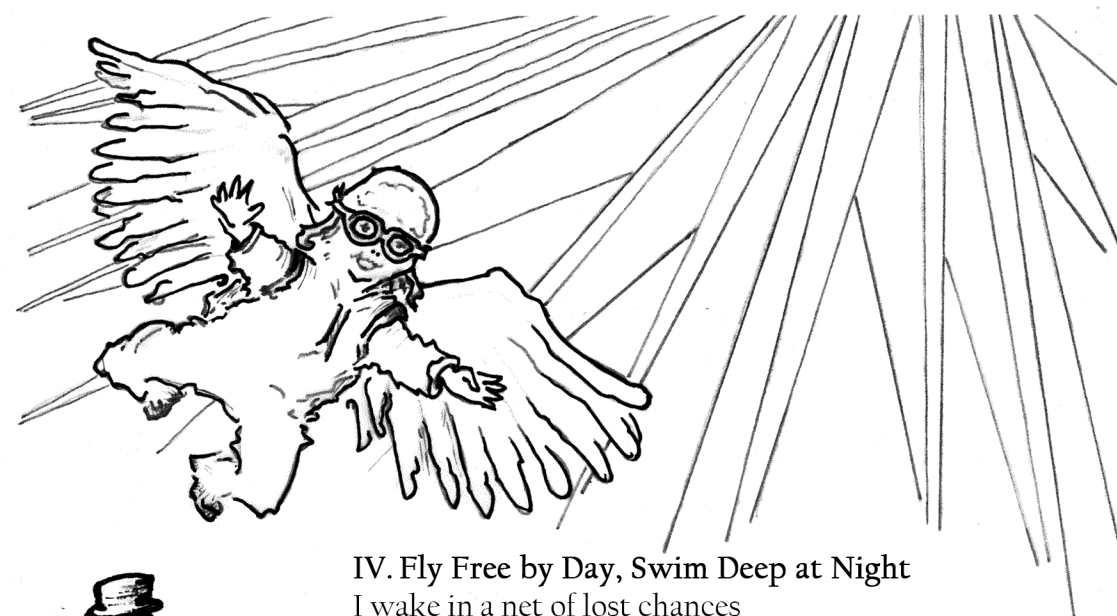
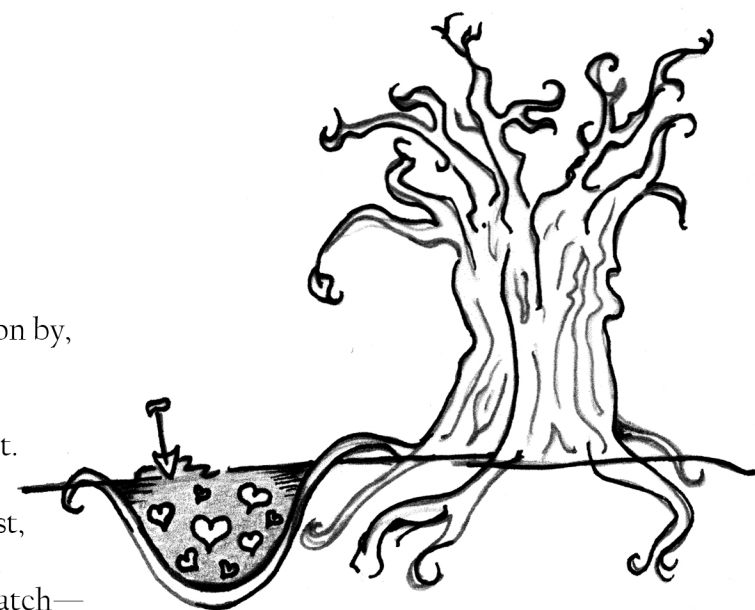
Poem No. 1 was originally titled "Asher's Moment" and is published in ASHER, rev. edition, Stone and Scott, Publishers, 1993.  
 Poem No. 2 was originally titled "Wrestling" and also appeared in the book ASHER.  
 Poem No. 4 was published in L. A. MY LOVE, Lone Wolf Editions, 2012.  
 It was in the chapter titled "Minutia" and was one of four poems in that section.  
 The date given is 29 November 2011.  
 Poems No. 3 and 5 were written especially for this set, FATHERHOOD SONGS.

## V. Eternal Laughter

And so, father, you have gone  
 Where I must one day follow,  
 And my son's love for you alone  
 Is set apart, now, by sorrow.

Every son hopes death will pass on by,  
 But must accept the cold fact  
 That at daybreak or eventide  
 He must bury old dreams, and act.

And so, old Dad, I salute your past,  
 And seek in this still photograph  
 What the sly camera could not catch—  
 Your joyful, echoing, eternal laugh.



## IV. Fly Free by Day, Swim Deep at Night

I wake in a net of lost chances  
 Drawn close about rising fears;  
 Yet there is peace in design—distance,  
 Repetition, even ancient arrears.

You leave again tomorrow  
 To later return from distant places  
 And free my thought from old sorrow  
 Determined by the god of long races.

There is no need to ask why parting goes on  
 When joyous pain prolongs such flight;  
 I do not think I will die today, dear son,  
 But even so—fly free by day, swim deep at night.

(4th verse added after Mvt. 5 was composed. Not included in the composition.)  
 The ages hold you fast now  
 As once you held me tight.  
 I see how your fell shadow  
 Slips, pale and pure, into light.