

“JUST A MATTER OF TIME. . .”

Eugenia Schultheis

Living through the time of losing –
The gradual letting go
 while holding on . . .
And at the end, the pull apart
And hands left empty.

Life left empty too?
No – only for the moment stunned;
For in those few and fewer hours
 before the final loss,
The heart has had to learn new ways
 of living –
New kinds of patience, courage, cheer
Born out of love and pain and fending off despair.
Then – when the losing’s done,
 the loss sustained,
Within the seeming emptiness of heart,
There are the lessons learned while losing;
And there will be new wisdom taught by grief –
New feelings too complex at first to understand –
And life continuing,
 the poorer almost beyond bearing than before
 and yet in certain never-wished-for ways the
 richer –
Life still charged with love –
Still here to live,
 although forever changed . . .

The wonder being this:
That in the life so changed
 will be contained the life
 that came before
Still being lived, in habits of the mind,
 in daily functionings, in laughter,
 pangs of sympathy –
And deep within the senses of the heart . . .
Not ever to be lost.