

## Ashes

1. Ashes are but signs of things left far behind:  
shattered dreams and love that never flowered in our lives.  
Turn aside the past, giving birth to hope.  
Ashes cannot hide the beauty of a heart in search  
for what it knows to be its own truth:  
a love that is free.
2. As we burn away the crusts of the unreal,  
we may realize the simple goodness that is ours.  
Setting fears on fire our spirit will be strong:  
free to be ourselves, forgiveness enters deeply  
into the heart so longing for peace:  
the blossom appears.
3. And we shall go on, knowing there is life  
waiting to be born: the moment may come suddenly.  
Promises we keep to friends so true and deep  
carry their own joy that friendship brings  
to flower in faithfulness: at last we are free to be more alive.