

Poem excerpt from *Dark Harbor*

Contributed by [Ariel Kates](#)

Source: by Mark Strand

XVIII

"I would like to step out of my heart's door and be
Under the great sky." I would like to step out
And be on the other side, and be part of it all
That surrounds me. I would like to be
In that solitude of soundless things, in the random
Company of the wind, to be weightless, nameless.
But not for long, for I would be downcast without
The things I keep inside my heart; and in no time
I would be back. Ah! the old heart
In which I sleep, in which my sleep increases, in which
My grief is ponderous, in which the leaves are falling
In which the streets are long, in which the night
Is dark, in which the sky is great, the old heart
That murmurs to me of what cannot go on,
Of the dancing, of the inmost dancing.