

Invitation

It doesn't interest me / what you do for a living.
I want to know what you *ache* for and
if you *dare* to dream of meeting your hearts desire.

It doesn't interest me / how old you are.
I want to know if you will *risk* looking like a fool for love,
for your dream.

It doesn't interest me / what your astrology or enneagram # is.
I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow,
if you have been opened by life's betrayals;
or have become closed, fearing further pain!

I want to know if you can / sit with pain -
mine or your own,
without trying to hide it or fade it or fix it.

I want to know if you can / be with joy, -
mine or your own;
if you can dance with wildness and let ecstasy fill you *without* cautioning us
to be careful, realistic.

It doesn't interest me / if the story you are telling me is true.
I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself;
if you can **bear** the accusation of betrayal,
and **not** betray your own spirit.

It doesn't interest me / who you know or how you came to be here.
I want to know if you will enter the fire with me and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me / where, or what, or with whom you have studied.
I want to know what *sustains* you from within, when all else falls away.
I want to know if you can be *alone with yourself*;
and, if you truly *love* the company you keep in those empty moments.

- ORIAH, *Mountain Dreamer*, w/edits by Lyn