

### Stained Glass

By Andrea Hope

I returned to you shortly after the tornado had settled.  
 All the things you took such care to forget now easily drifted back into memory,  
 they laid themselves out across your lawn,  
 they spread themselves across your feet like wilted offerings at roadside tombstones.  
 When you saw me coming,  
 you sat with a broken crayon and a piece of cardboard trying to draw me out an exit plan to places I had already passed along the way.  
 When you saw me coming,  
 you sat with a head held heavy,  
 having heard far too often that sometimes loving someone means wanting the best for them even when it isn't you

Sweetheart, sometimes loving someone means wanting the best for them even when it is you  
 and it is you.

I know, you are broken glass — shattered  
 you must be weary of your edges,  
 I am watercolor.  
 I have been waiting my whole life to paint your pieces back to beautiful  
 and some, will never call us anything more than stained glass  
 but others, who know better, will carve their temples to fit our framework  
 will look up and see their storie  
 and see us sparkling  
 and call this  
 holy.

### Love

By Metin

My higher-self, my gut-feeling, instantly knows the best answer  
 and the reaction during my tests and trials.  
 Such sense is deeper than any conditioning I may have.  
 When I'm with you, Love, I'm a child again,  
 And I'm back to the times when I didn't have any concepts and requests.  
 Now, beyond doubt, I surrender to your beauty,  
 And as I do so, I remember the reason I'm here  
 is because of a promise I made long ago,  
 Before my existence, in a dream,  
 That you are the emotion I would choose to live.

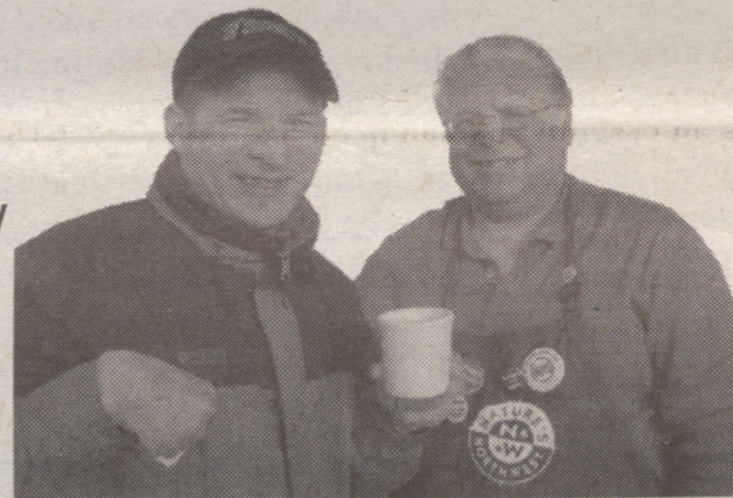
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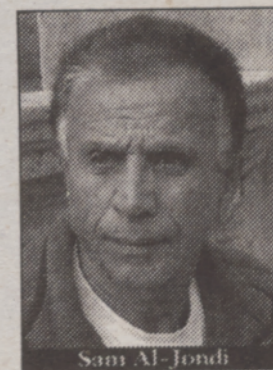
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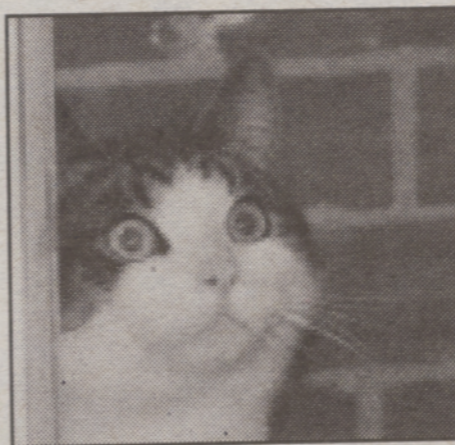
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Check out Street Roots Vendor Sam Al-Jondi's new book, "Code of Conduct." Al-Jondi writes about his experiences and offers a fresh perspective about the world we live in.



The books can be purchased at the Multnomah County Central Library on SW 10th Ave., on Kindle, Amazon, and for \$10 through Street Roots at 211 NW Davis St., Portland, OR 97209.



*Office Cat Rooty says thank you to Art Garcia for volunteering his time and helping the vendors and staff get work done with a smile! Thank you!*