

**Gaia**

by Raven

Mother;  
I ask your  
rawness to envelop  
my yearnings, my restlessness.  
To find my door yawning wide.  
Mother ... shall I enter?  
I desire only your embrace  
for no one else can hold me.

**My Decaying Heart & Soul**

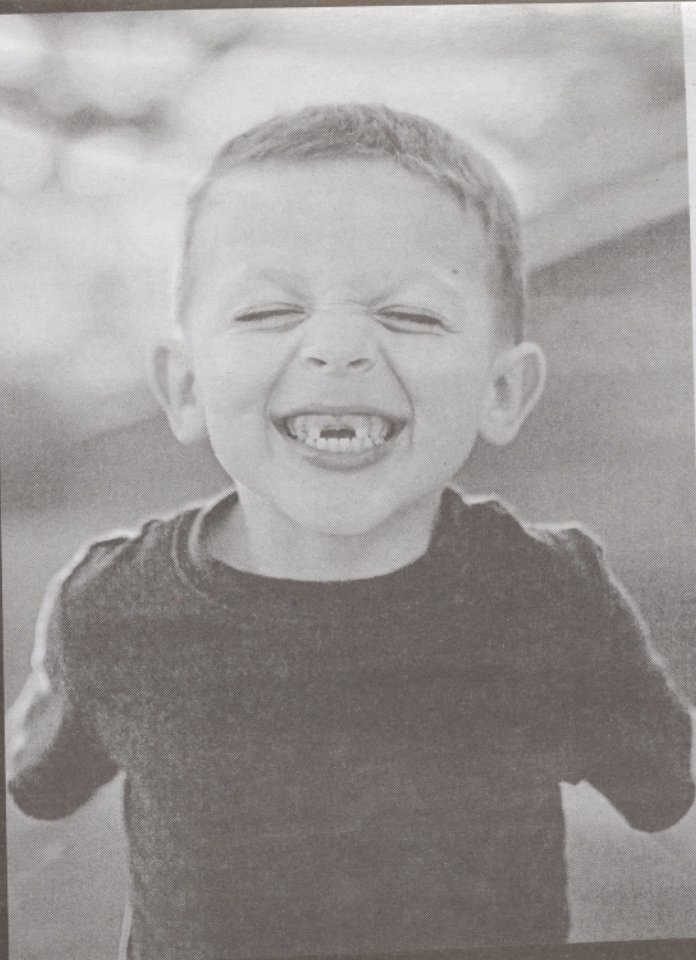
by Brian Nye

I'm so tired of living this way  
It's beer and weed that get me through the day.  
I'm tired of holding these feelings at bay  
My heart & soul, they decay  
Everyday I ask God and pray  
But it's me that has to obey  
Why do I seem to always pick the wrong way  
I do my best and surely pray  
So what can I say?  
I get up and work at doing better the next day  
I must act with no delay  
Because soon my heart & soul will completely decay  
Then there won't be another day

**What Is in a Name**

by Aileen McPherson

I was given Heather at birth,  
by definition it means purple flowering shrub on the moors.  
Attached to that was Aileen, which was defined as a lightbearer.  
While lasts can be many, and are either inherited or married into.  
After time my given name was the cause and subject of triggering events  
and past tragedies.  
I had to change it, but to what?  
Many names were thought of before the decision was made.  
I have a name I like and it is already mine, all I need to do is use it.  
So I was reborn Aileen, a fine name I have loved and cannot be taken  
away. She is the writer, the Author of Dreams, and creator of scenes.  
What of my other loves, drawing and such, isn't Aileen just a bit much  
when trying to hide the artist inside.  
So to shorten this name would be insane, but for ease of space and  
drawing tastes, I look for a way to show my face.  
It was in the Japanese slang I found a name that made my heart bound.  
It was me and love wrapped into one, and Ai was born.  
Ai is love and I, Aileen, love to create, design, and educate  
myself as well as others.  
My creativity is a brevity of musings from the mind,  
of rhymes made to describe past times,  
While sketching like retching, vomiting on the page,  
Sometimes it hurts, but afterwards it fades  
Just like the darkest of shades.



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