

**In my eyes**

by Aileen McPherson

The face I love is full of warmth and  
Kindness, from smooth to fuzzy  
He is my hubby, gracious, strong,  
Eyes like the steel blue of  
Winter skies, his smile says  
I'll love you beyond the end of time.

**The Mythical Phoenix**

by Bryant King

How can we enjoy the lavish  
thrills of rebirth unless we die  
some inside now? It is the  
trickiest time of our life, when  
our energies are used to resolve  
the unfinished business. I want  
to put the past to rest as best we  
can. Putting on our funniest sad  
face and pay our last respects to  
the old ways and old days we  
will soon be leaving behind!  
The mythical Phoenix which burns  
itself down, resurrects from  
its own ashes!

**Street Roots and Steel**

by Victor de Jarnette

About once a month I see you,  
Rain or shine, more often rain,  
There on the sidewalk, selling papers, a diligent, intelligent paper,  
Outside the store where I sometimes shop, and I always buy from you.  
You're there today: earnest, handsome face,  
Awake, aware, clean, clean-shaven,  
A working man, dressed for work,  
Always polite, friendly, a good businessman.  
I express my appreciation for the quality of the paper, and we start to talk.  
You've been in Portland two years,  
Come here from heartbreak, broken dreams, a broken life,  
Not knowing the expense of mere survival on the West Coast.  
You've come from my home state, the town where I went to college.  
I'm surprised. You don't have the accent. Your mind is open.  
I tell you the strange story that led me to this town,  
Tragedy turned to a new beginning.  
Rooted in the ground, you tell me of your unfolding life.  
I've been enjoying living in the rain today, another new beginning.  
We are looking at each other.  
We shake hands.  
We are both spring steel, and we both know.

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