

## Mevlâna Jalâluddîn Rumi translated by Coleman Barks

### Be Melting Snow

Totally conscious, and apropos of nothing, you come to see me.  
Is someone here? I ask.  
*The moon. The full moon is inside your house.*

My friends and I go running out into the street.  
*I'm in here*, comes a voice from the house, but we aren't listening.  
We're looking up at the sky.  
My pet nightingale sobs like a drunk in the garden.  
Ringdoves scatter with small cries, *Where, Where.*  
It's midnight. The whole neighborhood is up and out  
in the street thinking, *The cat burglar has come back.*  
The actual thief is there too, saying out loud,  
*Yes, the cat burglar is somewhere in this crowd.*  
No one pays attention.

*Lo, I am with you always* means when you look for God,  
God is in the look of your eyes,  
in the thought of looking, nearer to you than your self,  
or things that have happened to you  
There's no need to go outside.

Be melting snow.  
Wash yourself of yourself.

A white flower grows in quietness.  
Let your tongue become that flower.