

Waking

I am coming to
Awakened from years of slumber
I do not recognize the reflection in my mirror now
A person I no longer know
Years of neglectful sleep have orphaned me from my self

Yet
I do know that I am now parentless
My mother
My father
My god
They were mere figments of my imagination
Conjured dreams
In the light of day
They have vanished

I am bastardized
But happy to be
Is this my true entrance into the world
Or an invitation to leave it

I have no legs as yet
I am unsure I can actually walk into this new reality
The shock may kill me
It may be too much freedom
With no boundaries, the sea may swallow me whole

And what of the life I had
The choices I had made
My wife
My children
Are they casualties of my renaissance
Must I leave them with what I was
In order to live anew

Would I be brave enough
Would I be man enough
Perhaps death will win the war in my heart
Perhaps I will decide that no one will have me
Not this life or a new one elsewhere

How heroic
How utterly defiant
To leave life altogether

But I love life
And people
And nature
Living it now would be new
I would approach it the way I am
With no one to color me
No one to keep me from expressing my joy
No one to squeeze me back into conformity
To cover my colors with gray

My legs
Will they carry me into this new world
Or will I lie here
Paraplegic
Overwhelmed
Unable to accept this new challenge
Unable to walk into this new world of me
Until infection sets in
Abandoning me to death
Will I lie still enough for death
Will no one ever know the person I have just discovered
Not even me

George Lennon