

THE RAIN ROSE

By Grace Clarke

Illustration by David Clarke



There came a joyful trembling
Within the heart of the tree
As a shimmering rose unfolded,
A flower so tender
Rested while it grew
Leaves and branches
Weaving a canopy of space.

A rotating leafy lantern
Sheltering velvet petals
Unmarked by wind or rain,
Growing to perfection
A symbolic flower
Held in the hand of time:
A "Rain Rose".

Marcasite and Haematite
Highlight its beauty,
Through the frost gauzy air
Like a bell it swayed
Emitting a low musical tune
Swelling to a celestial fanfare,
Taking a message of love to the stars.

Windblown,
Transparent as air
Colours from the rainbow
A glint of gold at the heart
Nimbus – life giving rain cloud,
Cloud of glory
Love story of the earth.

Is this rose to be rolled
Into a bead for a rosary,
Decorate a cold church pillar
In a set piece of floral art,
Or blow freely on a friend's grave
Taking its perfection
To Paradise on perfumed petals.

The tree stands beneath a halo
Of mist and ethereal light.
May the rose lantern
Guide us all with love
Ashes of roses cushion its flight,
My rose: let the hymns of heaven
Embrace you and hold you.