

About the Poem

From even before I started my journey of self-discovery towards my true gender, I felt that my identity was intertwined with my life partner of twenty years. So when I realized I had to make a drastic change in my life, I was seriously concerned about our relationship. We still wanted to be together, but our feelings ... what did they say?

I was the one changing, and she was not. My turmoil, making me feel this illness of gender dysphoria up to my ears at times, was then minor to the turmoil my partner felt. I had become aware that her acceptance of what I had to do did nothing to comfort her. We feared an uncertainty of what would happen about the life we had built together, but still that wasn't the worst of it.

There was nothing I could say to comfort her, and in my own desperate situation, words often lost their meaning anyway. I wanted to say "I love you," and I wanted to add, "no matter what." But in this situation the meaning of it got lost, and the love I wanted to express was falling like snow flakes to melt on the ground even before I opened my mouth.

I wrote this poem because I love my partner (she later became my wife). If there was one thing I wanted her to know, it was that I never cheated or lied about my feelings towards her. For me to be true to myself I couldn't ignore the love we shared.

If you are in a situation like mine, you might be feeling something like total disaster, as if walls of trust and hope are falling right over you. In a situation like that, you need the end of a rope to pull you out before it all collapses. If you and your spouse still love each other, that rope can be very long, and it can save you. The tension you feel is your loved one pulling, and when you pull back, he or she will know you are still there.

If you feel true bonds in your life, trust them, even if the distance connecting you at times may seem too overwhelming.

yours sincerely, Li Sam

you still love her...

Bonds

a wish for a future

*Even while looking forward, your mind looks back;
There is a feeling you still have to track.*

*Your children moved out so long ago,
But someone is there who still emits a glow.
There are those feelings you can't forget:
Of that wonderful woman you once met.*

*You have loved her most of your life;
You still love her, and she is your wife.
From the first moment, you gave her your heart.
Will the girl within tear your marriage apart?*

*You see your wife worry, wondering why.
Will she stay, or is it forever goodbye?
Those thoughts hurt and make you cry.
That feeling—loving your wife—was never a lie.*

