

## **Darkness**

*by Rainer Maria Rilke*

You darkness from whom I am born –  
I love you more than all the fires  
that block out the night;  
for the fire limits the world  
to the circle it lights up  
and excludes all the rest.  
But the darkness holds everything:  
shapes and shadows, creatures and me,  
peoples and nations — just as they are.  
It lets me imagine  
a great presence stirring beside me.  
I believe in the darkness.