
Untitled
Samuel Clifton



Once Upon a Dream

POEM BY ANNETTE CASHATT

Once upon a dream
I walked a path of cracked stones and rotting stalks of vegetation

But I always found the sky

Bursting scarlet embers, streaked with violet, tranquil blues fading in black

Once upon a dream

The cosmos sang to me

A nebulae, filled with millions of stars

And trillions of atoms

Lit the night as fireflies do in a fog

Guiding me on my way

Once upon a dream

In trying to find the way off the path

I passed under a weeping willow

And failed to see the cobweb

Nobody had warned me and I did not know better

So the web clung to me

Once upon a dream

The sun rose

I saw a gathering of dust particles suspended in a beam of sunshine

But touching them added one more layer

Stratified my being

Once upon a dream

Time began to devour my soul, as time will

When I looked, the sky was gone

The path was constricted

And signs written by the hands of others told me where to go and how

Their commands reverberated through my mind as a drum

Once upon a dream

The world was smaller

My vision narrowed

As I stared through a porthole, shrinking in diameter each day

Once upon a dream

I realized that starving my soul

Only fed the teeth of time

And the world is vaster than anyone imagines

I grew smaller, not the world

