

## A Poem of Death for the Living

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my culture embraces death  
and is friends with the living  
no life exists without the death  
of a previous existence  
Serbs know well we were all dead  
before we were born but Serbia  
is the crossroad of East and West  
and Asian blood courses thru  
my slavic veins

i walk as in a dream thru life  
and dream hard realities  
this street i have never seen  
yet something is always familiar  
tho framed in the strange

from nowhere u appear  
shuffling a deck of cards  
select one, fanning and offering the deck  
but choose wisely  
it will determine the tenure and character  
of your entire life

i draw a card, the Asian wheel of life  
decorated with images of the dead  
appropriate to the circumstance and location  
of my birth yet those that surround me are familiar  
like a re-run of an old movie with the same actors  
but different theme and plot

the wise know the Egyptian Book  
of the Dead is a guide to life eternal  
and the Tibetan book of the Dead  
is a guide to another birth/life

the wheel turns, i die daily  
leaving the past with funerary attendants  
and my failed hopes with undertakers  
adorned with hooded falcons  
on their shoulders

i look at u intensely and see rivers

of time intricately woven into  
a pattern representing the sum  
of my experience thru numerous dimensions  
and spheres  
the course forms a moving spiral  
of being from the outermost edge curving back  
to the stillness of the centre  
where i/u first came into being

u realise i see the implications  
of the life i have selected  
a faint smile appears on your face  
u know we will be together tho  
we'll be strangers when we meet,  
live, love and die together  
fulfilled and ready for another turn  
of the wheel until we merge  
in the centre as one unbroken, cosmic  
stream of Love

as u begin to fade from view  
u turn  
ur haunting tho comforting glance  
evokes a memory,  
i was the dealer who offered you  
the deck before,  
the card u chose was  
Victory

<http://jungledrum.hopto.org/news/story-1989.html>

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-630.html>