

From this vantage and perspective,
Our view is most spectacular.

In us these things are comprehended
In forms and ways they otherwise cannot be.

What is spectacular
Is not arrays of distant galaxies,

But the shining miracle of love
And the ways in which it can be seen

Made manifest to shine on us,
Made manifest to shine in us.

I can look upon this,
I can feel and I can know this,

But I cannot think this well.

I am not learning to look beyond.
I am learning to look at and see,

Not in distant places far away,
But in the faces in these halls with me.

Passage

n i n e t y - o n e

These Halls

We went to their school last evening
 To see the art that lined the halls,
 The creative works of kindergartners,
 First, second, and third-graders.

I get a feeling when I walk those halls,
 Among the many children with their families,
 The kind of feeling some people get in church,
 Of this as an important place
 Where God's presence can be felt
 And angels do their work in many guises.

We learn the deeper lessons here,
 And our successes are the sweeter for
 The obstacles to our achieving them.

Cindy was voicing her disappointment in her math class.
 She was talking about how hard it was
 To get her special education students to get serious about
 What they needed to be learning.

I said, "Have you tried telling them
 They are going to need this math in later life?"

And that got a good laugh from her.

A lot of people say, "All you need to do. . ."
 Who do not know what they are talking about.

Until one has faced a challenge him or herself,
 One cannot know the difficulties involved
 Or the depths from which one must draw
 Or the fact that one can have such depth,
 And this is why I say that in this place
 We learn the deeper lessons.

I looked at a photograph last evening
 Of a field of distant galaxies,
 And I felt very small, but not unimportant.

Nothing was done just for for me,
 But everything was done so we
 Could walk these halls and see the art created
 By kindergartners, first, second, and third-graders,
 So that we could have these feelings
 And know these things this way.

I know this was not done for one,
 But had it been for one, alone,
 It would not have been too much trouble.