

You cannot be coerced to love,
But I believe that way
Will be of your choosing, someday,
Because there is no other way
That leads one anywhere.

Passage

s e v e n t y - o n e

When you set your heart
Upon that path,
When it becomes
Your heart's desire to love,
Not even you
Can keep you from it,
Because at every turn,
You will turn that way
And move in that direction.

You will not need to know how.
You will not need directions.
You will find your own way to it.

Your Own Way

Why turn the other cheek?
Why go the extra mile?

Why love your enemies?

Not because you should.
Not because it is right.

But because it is best
And because it helps.

What is good is good,
Because it is good,

Not because it is right.

What is bad is bad,
Because it is bad,

Not because it is wrong.

Some ways make us less
And some ways make us more.

Some ways lead to growth and development.
And some ways lead to sickness of the spirit.

Sickness is not bad
Because someone says it is.

Growth and development are not good
Because we are supposed to grow.

I believe the concept of *thou shalt*
Is a problem of translation

Because it is meaningless to command
What cannot be done upon command,

Even if one wants to.

Thou shalt love...

You cannot do it on command,
Even if you want to.

If I say to you, "You shall love."
I could mean, "You will love."

It is not then a command.
It is a blessing and an invocation.

Thou shalt go north.
Could be a translation

Of directions north.

Love is a direction.

It is an orientation, but
No one can set you

Straight on it.