moon songs

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by Tristan De Pauw

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for Camille C. (1997-2021)



the end

this is the end i have reached rock-bottom

confined by the limits of a wounded heart and stuck on the path of empathy i was aiming higher than the moon

i fell into the void and drowned inside the well of ignorance and shame

couldn't swim
was paralysed
between the 'what if's' and a dream

but now i want to escape i want to climb again to outgrow the cramped cage where i am living in

with its deafening cities and suicide streets exquisite pains and neglected fears

i want to awake i want to stand up i want to rise above it all

like a peacock in bloom i must spread my many-feathered fan and learn to live with pride i no longer want to be
the nameless vagabond
on the run
with no penny and no dime
chasing for the cheapest wisdom
in the loneliest of barrooms
among the fellow prisoners of the heart
the lonesome bunch
the artists and the clowns
all fastened on a chain of unresolved emotions

we were living for the weekend
and gambling with the booze
pursuing freedom in obscure quarters
in the boredom room
shifting the burden
from one to another
listening
to the broken-down nightingale top ten
on the jukebox
all picking up the lovesick blues
again and again

i want to leave now
i want to erect
the universe is calling out my name
i swear

i have to break loose from these claws of despair i want to heal under the guiding eye of the secret amber that is shining from afar

o spirit survivors of the soul, teach me how to grow like a lotus flower in the mud

show me
how to love
how to feel
how to rise up like a phoenix
from the ashes of decay

teach me how to cherish the secret meaning of my name

for i no longer wish to be the victim in this slaughterhouse story of self-pity and shame

i no longer want to deny the deepest cravings on the landscape of the heart

i want to shout i want to scream instead i no longer want to be a citizen in this realms of anger and frustration where no one speaks to each other nor cares about each other

i no longer want to be imprisoned in this dungeon of destruction

i have to move forward
escape
climb
transcend the little boy lost in wonder
(still locked inside the cage)

o mothers lovers take my hand show me the way to the floodgates

open up my eyes and let me cry my rivers elegy

and release me whenever i am on the way to the heart

homeward bound