



○ **Poem- *Let Something Essential Happen to Me***

O God,

*let something essential happen to me,
something more than interesting
or entertaining,
or thoughtful.*

O God,

*let something essential happen to me,
something awesome,
something real.
speak to me condition, Lord,
and change me somewhere inside where it matters,
a change that will burn and tremble and heal
and explode me into tears
or laughter or love that throbs or screams
or keeps its terrible, cleansing silence
and dares the dangerous deeds.
Let something happen in me which is my real self, God.*

O God,

*let something essential and passionate happen in me now. Strip me of
my illusions of self-sufficiency.
of my proud sophistications,
of my inflated assumptions of knowledge*

*and leave me shivering as Adam or Eve
before the miracle of the natural-
before the miracle of this earth
that nurtures me as a mother
and delights me as a lover;
the miracle of my body
that breathes and moves,
hunger and digests,
sees and hears,
that works the most amazing messages
of what and when and how,
coded and curled in every cell
and that dares to speak the confronting word.*

O God,

*let something essential and joyful happen in me now. something like
the blooming of hope and faith,
like a grateful heart,
like a surge of awareness,
of how precious each moment is,
that now, not next time,
now is the occasion
to take off my shoes,
to see every bush afire,
to leap and whirl with neighbor,
to gulp the air as sweet wine*

*until I've drunk enough
to dare to speak the tender word:
"Thank you";
"I love you";
"You're beautiful";
"Let's live forever beginning now";
And "I'm a fool for Christ's sake."*

By Ted Loder