

## Temper Me

This cauldron  
This burning  
This fire  
This longing of my life  
Which burns me from the inside  
Threatens to consume me

“Go to the limits of your longing”  
The Poet\* enralls me  
“Flare up like a flame”  
“Embody me”

I’m cast into the furnace  
To test my faith  
The flame inside me rises  
Greater, stronger, fiercer  
Than the fire which surrounds

I breathe in the heat, the smoke  
Feed the longing which I fear  
Will annihilate me

There in those flames  
In the shadows cast by  
That great glaring light  
Form takes shape  
Emerges to stand beside me

The king and all watching eyes  
Perceive in awe  
No longer one alone  
But two  
The loved and the beloved  
Reach, take each other’s hand  
Walk forward into life.

*Raine Brown,  
September 2017  
\*Rainer Maria Rilke  
Book of Hours, I 59*