

Butterfly's Name

is "Butterfly"
in some modern English dialects.
Butterfly has more spoken names
than there are human languages.

Butterfly speaks its name
sound of wings
colors and odors
one butterfly
flies above colors and odors
flowers grow from earth.

When two or more gather
their group name
becomes the sound
of many wings.
odors blend
colors
sense of life, of joy in life.

adult humans
rarely hear butterfly's names
Children hear them.
Less in modern times.
adults keep children
occupied
in places of noise
bright and flashing lights
mechanical smells
oil smells
mask subtle odors.

Child of quiet contemplation
hears the single name
then the group name
through double-pane glass
looks in wonder
at the brightly-flying colors
odors
air moving.
Flowers blossom
trees
shrubs
grow
many colors of green
soft wind
in wild garden.

Child becomes aware
of delicate odors
soft sounds
subtle colors,
names before words,
growing consciousness
of life.

Mother of child
concerned
that her child does nothing,
claims this child, this room.
this consciousness,
snaps on light
against soft light of nature,
gathers
trundles her child off
to activity,
loud sounds,
socialization, education.

Child begins to forget
the sound of soft motion
forget bright colors, smells
colors of the garden
flying above the garden
air moving above earth.

By morning
child's thoughts
about butterflies have flown
faded as dreams
in sunlight.

If the growing child could remember
memories would bring balance again
completion.

Few
bring that moment
back to consciousness
few remember
before mechanical noise
obscured quietness
we began to understand
Butterflies' identity.