

## 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.