

Slonimsky, Lee
Pythagoras's Flowering Heart

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The calculations by which he arrived
at theorems for the fragrance of sunlight
are vanished now. If only they'd survived,
we'd better understand the deep delight
he must have taken from dawn's rose perfume,
the luminescent orchids of midday,
the way slow violets of late evening bloom
before the darkness seals their glow away.
But just the notion that the air can breathe,
while gold rays flower and make love to stone,
reveals a fevered ardor, one that seethes
with lust for leaf and dust, for bark and bone.
Spring mornings at the pond, he must have known
seduction by first shimmer. Sunlight's moan.

Lee Slonimsky

[Author Affiliation]

Lee Slonimsky's poetry collections are *Talk Between Leaf and Skin* (SRLR Press) and *Pythagoras in Love* (Orchices Press, 2007). His poems appear in *Best of Asheville Poetry Review*, *The Carolina Quarterly*, Carol Goodman's novels *The Ghost Orchid* (2006) and *The Sonnet Lover* (2007), and *The New York Times*.

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