***Building the House of your life***

**Love bade me welcome** George Herbert 1593-1633

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back

                              Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack

                             From my first entrance in,

Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,

                             If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:

                             Love said, You shall be he.

I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,

                             I cannot look on thee.

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,

                             Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame

                             Go where it doth deserve.

And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?

                             My dear, then I will serve.

You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:

                             So I did sit and eat.

**Pax**  by [D. H. Lawrence](http://www.poetry-chaikhana.com/Poets/L/LawrenceDH/) 1885-1930

All that matters is to be at one with the living God  
to be a creature in the house of the God of Life.

Like a cat asleep on a chair  
at peace, in peace  
and at one with the master of the house, with the mistress,

at home, at home in the house of the living,  
sleeping on the hearth, and yawning before the fire.

Sleeping on the hearth of the living world  
yawning at home before the fire of life  
feeling the presence of the living God  
like a great reassurance  
a deep calm in the heart  
a presence  
as of the master sitting at the board  
in his own and greater being,  
in the house of life.

**The Guesthouse** Jalaluddin Rumi 1207-1273  
This being human is a guest house.  
Every morning a new arrival.  
A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.  
Welcome and entertain them all!  
Even if they’re a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house  
empty of its furniture,  
still, treat each guest honourably.  
He may be clearing you out  
for some new delight.  
The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing,  
and invite them in.  
Be grateful for whoever comes,  
because each has been sent  
as a guide from beyond.

**On Joy and Sorrow**   
From The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran 1883-1931

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.  
And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was oftentimes filled with your tears.  
And how else can it be?  
The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.  
Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven?  
And is not the lute that soothes your spirit, the very wood that was hollowed with knives?  
When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy.  
When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.   
Some of you say, "Joy is greater than sorrow," and others say, "Nay, sorrow is the greater."  
But I say unto you, they are inseparable.  
Together they come, and when one sits, alone with you at your board, remember that the other is asleep upon your bed.   
Verily you are suspended like scales between your sorrow and your joy.  
Only when you are empty are you at standstill and balanced.  
When the treasure-keeper lifts you to weigh his gold and his silver, needs must your joy or your sorrow rise or fall.