

12. *The Reunion Song* Copyright © 2011 Richard Lawrence Norman

I am a laughing purple star
Once and again complete
Burst and born, unable to resist
A laughter spilt across heaven.

I feared I spoke my name aloud
To call the name of Pain allowed
Did I proclaim my soul in song
Lament and knowledge born and fallen
Swift the current downward turns
Burning ashes, fuming urns
Time and sadness leave but naught
Whose name in ashen lips accost?

"But you who shame has spent and named
Or known by any other shame
Is creeping slyly in your breast
The name of honest scorn and lest
You know it, and then know the form
Your pure cut soul now stained and worn
Tattered, but still plain enough
Your name is pain, and shame, and so
Dare you look to see it true
To glance upon the old and new?"

So did Doubt speak into me
Her heart both anchor God and Need
So long borne truth in tombs are just
Sickened twice and then enough
But to crack the walls, breathe the dust
Know the thing in light and love.
A shameful name in secret keeps
Heaven's heart and sweetest deep
Beneath the fearful dust and gloom
I lick my light into this tomb
And know my name again and right
Reclaim that spoilt from withered sight.

My name is but a song again
Brightly sung, complete, a hymn
To knit together ages split
Desert clefts and sandy drifts
Years where it could not begin
But now has struck bright root, and then
Silver blue anointed sky
The purple star is borne on high

Joy is fount of shallow depth
Coursing over sky and swept
Into heaven's upturned cup
Her silver slip of light and long
Arching sky of black and ice
Shuddering at Dawn's embrace
Complete in name and sweet in song
Gracious named and nameless
Swept back up, into and over
Spilt twice in love and longing
Twice, into the upturned sky.

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Once and again complete
Burst and born, unable to resist
A laughter spilt across heaven.