



## ***Story-water***

*Jalaloddin Rumi*

---

A story is like the water  
and heat for your bath.  
It takes messages between the fire  
and your skin. It lets them meet,  
and it cleans you!

Very few can sit down  
in the middle of the fire itself  
like a salamander or Abraham.

We need intermediaries.  
A feeling of fullness comes,  
but usually it takes some bread  
to bring it.

Beauty surrounds us,  
but usually we need to be walking  
in a garden to know it.

The body itself is a screen  
to shield and partially reveal  
the light that's blazing  
inside your presence.

Water, stories, the body,  
all the things we do, are mediums  
that hide and show what's hidden.

Study them,  
and enjoy this being washed  
with a secret we sometimes know,  
and then not.

from *One-Handed Basket Weaving: Poems on the Theme of Work*  
translated by Coleman Barks