

What Have I Ever Lost By Dying

I spent millions of years in the world of inorganic things
as a star, as a rock ...

Then I died and became a plant--
Forgetting my former existence because of its otherness.

Then I died and became an animal--
Forgetting my life as a plant
except for inclinations in the season
of spring and sweet herbs--
like the inclination of babes
toward their mother's breast.

Then I died and became a human
My intelligence ripened, awakening
from greed and self-seeking
to become wise and knowing.

I behold a hundred thousand
intelligences most marvelous
and remember my former states
and inclinations.

And, when I die again
I will soar past the angels
to places I cannot imagine.
Now, what have I ever lost by dying?

- Rumi