

## A Song for Sister Death

She had not always seemed your sister—Death.  
Not when she butchered your comrades-in-arms,  
or when, a harridan with bloody hands,  
she terrorized your post-traumatic dreams.

But now, a lifetime later, you and she  
are reconciled. Now, like a patient friend,  
she waits to open wide for you the door  
to all life's loveliness redeemed and more.

You cannot fear her now that you have lived  
the dying of your Lord in your own flesh.  
His dying love has made peace with your foe.  
His living love will never let you go.

Each day the brothers sing your song of joy  
for all the creatures you no longer see,  
and at the end you lie on Mother Earth  
while Songbird Sisters celebrate your birth.

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This poem was inspired by *The Canticle of the Creatures*,  
also known as *The Canticle of Brother Sun*.  
By the time he wrote it Francis was going blind.  
When he was dying he asked to be laid on the earth  
naked as he was when he was born.