

My heart was sad when leaves began to fall;
All summer long their heavy shade had cast
A somber gloom that suited well my grief
For one who loves the summer so
I watched them drifting earthward one by one
And thought that soon the whole wide world would be
As drear and desolate as I.
Then idly following the lazy flight
Of one brown leaf, I saw it sink
And nestle close between the careless heaps
Of red and yellow ones. All quietly
An elfin sunbeam darted through the trees
Touched with its magic all the tumbled leaves
Blending the colors in a pattern rare
Of oriental richness, making there
A soft and beauteous tapestry
That covered quite the ugliness of earth.
Then looking up in sudden gratitude
For Beauty which the truant ray had brought
I knew for me a miracle was wrought
For falling leaves had let the sunshine in
And opened wide the path from me to God.

- Neva Galbreath Givens