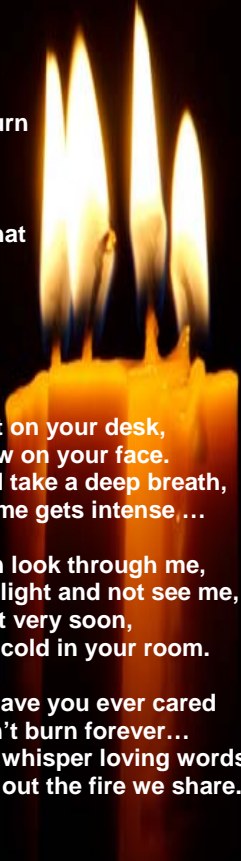


## *The Monk and the Candle*



I don't know how long I can burn  
and be humble,  
How long I can give my light  
to you as a candle,  
How far you can carry me in that  
silver lantern,  
And how long I can illuminate  
underground stairs  
Leading you to your cold and  
dark chamber.

I don't know how long I can sit on your desk,  
How long I can admire the glow on your face.  
When you raise your head and take a deep breath,  
I shiver with fear... and my flame gets intense ...

I don't know how long you can look through me,  
How long you can stare at my light and not see me,  
My life is consumed; I will melt very soon,  
My light is getting weak; I feel cold in your room.

I know, you always pray, but have you ever cared  
For your melting candle? I can't burn forever...  
I can't perish like this, at least whisper loving words  
And take my breath away: put out the fire we share.