

## The Circle of Life

*By Marilyn Reeves*

From the Source of Life that is the Universe,  
From the Waters of the Sea that is my Father,  
Through the Elements of the Earth that is my Mother,  
Flows a tiny speck of Life that will be me  
And I begin.

Without knowing that I know I am aware  
Of a pressure so intense I cannot bear.  
As knowing hands lift me gently  
from the womb  
Suddenly my world is filled with light  
And I am born.

I am filled with overwhelming terror!  
And more than that, an all-consuming hunger.  
Into strong and loving arms I find surrender,  
The nectar of the gods fulfills my need  
And I begin to grow.

I learn words so that I can tell them how I feel.  
I learn facts so I can comprehend the world.  
I make friends with those who understand.  
I find love, and we are joined together  
And he and I shall live as one.

I bring forth children of my own  
and watch them grow  
Till, one by one, they scamper out the door.  
I set them free to begin a cycle of their own  
And I wonder where all the time has gone.

I have attained the apex of my journey.  
Three hundred sixty degrees  
marks a full life-circle;  
One hundred eighty degrees  
is only half way there.  
I have another half to live before I'm home.

All that has come before has been addition.  
Now I begin the process of subtraction.

At the zenith of my life, I'm left to ponder,  
Where am I supposed to go from here?

My children are all gone and so's my husband.  
I've lost my love and now I'm on my own.  
One by one, my friends have also gone.  
I never thought that I'd be so alone.

I forget the facts I learned when I was young.  
I forget the words to tell them how I feel.  
I lose inches from my height,  
I begin to lose the precious gift of sight.  
Now my children put me in a home.

As knowing hands help me gently to my bed  
Into their strong and able care I find surrender.  
Someone offers food, but I reject it.  
I no longer feel the life-sustaining hunger.

I am filled with overwhelming terror!  
For I know the end of life has come.  
Suddenly my world is filled with light.  
I cannot feel the hands that held my own.

I return to the Elements of the Earth  
that is my Mother  
To the Waters of the Sea that is my Father  
And reunite this tiny speck of life  
with all the Universe.  
My life has come full circle; the time has come  
And finally, I am home.