



A FAREWELL

For a while I shall still be leaving,
 Looking back at you as you slip away
 Into the magic islands of the mind.
 But for a while now all alive, believing
 That in a single poignant hour
 We did say all that we could ever say
 In a great flowing out of radiant power.
 It was like seeing and then going blind.

After a while we shall be cut in two
 Between real islands where you live
 And a far shore where I'll no longer keep
 The haunting image of your eyes, and you,
 As pupils widen, widen to deep black
 And I am able neither to love or grieve
 Between fulfillment and heartbreak.
 The time will come when I can go to sleep.

But for a while still, centered at last,
 Contemplate a brief amazing union,
 Then watch you leave and then let you go.
 I must not go back to the murderous past
 Nor force a passage through to some safe landing,
 But float upon this moment of communion
 Entrance, astonished by pure understanding—
 Passionate love dissolved like summer snow.

May Sarton, 1992