

The Wolf^{1, 2}

By Fereydoon Moshiri

A tenacious wolf, said a wise man once,
Is hidden deep within each of us.

Hence, an immense daily struggle is ongoing,
Between the wolf and the human being.

Might alone will not this wolf subdue,
One with intellect would know what to do.

Many a man, weak and grieved,
Have their wolves by the throat seized.

And, many a man, courageous and strong,
Have been trapped in their wolves' claws for long.

□

Whoever defeats his wolf, gradually,
Becomes a wholesome man, eventually.

And, one who's always defeated by his wolf,
May appear to be a human, but he's a wolf!

And, one with whose wolf he will conspire,
Wolf-like nature he will acquire.

□

When you're young, your wolf's life you must take,
To let him grow old with you is a grave mistake.

Even a lion of a man when he's old,
Is no match for a wolf who's grown old.

□

Whenever people tear each other apart,
The wolves are their guide and steward.

Why humans are in so much pain?
Because it's their wolves who have the reign.

And, tyrants who keep one another in confidence,
Their wolves are each other's acquaintance.

Alliance of the wolves, estrangement of the men,
Of this strange state, to whom may one complain?

Translated by Franak Moshiri
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¹ Inspired by a story by Mowlana Jalal ad-Din Mohammad Balkhi (Rumi), Persian Sufi-poet. (*Set aside dog-like behavior for we are all human beings*).

² Also, inspired by a story from "Asrar Al-Towhid" (Mysteries of Unification) by Abu-Sa'id Abol-Khair, Persian Sufi-poet. (*Summary: A butcher donated a fattened lamb to the monastery. The dervishes had not eaten for several days and were overpowered by hunger. As they sat down to eat, Abu Sa'id said: Leave this food alone. It is a carcass not fit for eating. The butcher knelt down at the foot of the patriarch and apologized. The followers asked the Sheik: How did you know the meat was spoiled? Abu Sa'id responded: My ego's dog was too eager ...*