

Introductions

This line that is yours
in your palm and blood
is mine and your mother's too.
I will lay this world before you, child
and between sips of lemonade,
will gladly teach you
how to judge the length of roads
from my front porch.

I am your elder aunt
and the prayers I weave for you
are in the expanse of universes
(which are inside you and are your birthright)
Remember your light within as you try to read the dark.
May you retain shapes and sounds
for your greatest use.

Carry what you need to carry.
Discard what is not useful
Your journey is through eternity
You lose nothing
Grow into your greatest self.
When fear comes...
(and it arrives, for us all in various degrees)
Remember that victory resides on the other side of fear
And you can journey there any time you please.

You are a link in generations
Treat others with respect.
But above all,
Respect yourself,
For the root is arrogance which makes us believe it right
to love others and not ourselves.
Do not be afraid to make mistakes
It is part of our learning.
Remember, the need for balance in your life

I trust you already,
and remember that you are you
and not me.
I am your elder aunt
My name is Pam.

— PAMELA PLUMMER, Decatur, Ga.