

Wilderness Sarchild

When The Time Comes

In my eighth decade
I often imagine
I am being followed
by a many-clawed beast
biding its time,
waiting to grab.

I outpace him
but each day
he shadows
closer.

A ravenous beast who
feasts on aging hearts,
deteriorating bones,
once brilliant minds;
sucks away
at all that stands
between life
and no-life.

It is said that when
you are pursued
in a dream,
instead of running
you should stop,
turn around,
confront your stalker:

*Hey you,
who dares to dine
on me and those I love,
as delicious as we are,
we will fight you
until there is no more fight
and, then, willingly,
gift to you
the flesh of our flesh.*

Wilderness Sarchild is an award winning poet and playwright. She is the author of a full length poetry collection, *Old Women Talking*, published by Passager Books, and the

co-author of *Wrinkles, the Musical*, a play about women and aging. She has been selected as Poet of the Week on Poetry Superhighway, Poet of the Month at the Brewster Ladies Library, a featured poet at *Muddy River Poetry Review*, and can be heard reading her poetry on WCAI Poetry Sunday. Her poems have been published in numerous anthologies and literary journals.