

Dancing in a Daze

What am I to say to you
sitting there with meaning fractured

your mind already dim and at odds,
wandering in a maze ?

And Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
and roses and posies collapsed as well

and I shall be a prince and lead you to the ball
and you will parade there and even grow rich

dancing in a daze
beneath the bells of Shoreditch.

But how can I honour you now
for the wonder of your living

the visions you have had,
the histories you have made

the clear memories of good
you have left in the world ?

How can I find you now
in your maze ?

*Rogan Wolf
November 2022*

This poem was written as if addressing someone with dementia

Nursery rhymes referred to :

Humpty Dumpty

*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the King's horses and all the King's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.*

Ring a ring a roses

*Ring a ring a roses
A pocket full of posies
Atishoo ! atishoo !
We all fall down.*

'London Bells' or 'Oranges and Lemons'

*Oranges and lemons
Say the bells of St. Clement's
You owe me five farthings
Say the bells of St. Martin's
When will you pay me?
Say the bells of Old Bailey
When I grow rich
Say the bells of Shoreditch
And when will that be?
Say the bells of Stepney
I do not know
Say the great bells of Bow
Here comes a candle
To light you to bed
And here comes a chopper
To chop off your head.*

The story of Cinderella

An old old story of rags-to-riches – a young girl in the shadows, looked down on and neglected ; her fairy godmother makes a princess of her for the evening and she goes to the ball where the prince falls in love with her. The magic spell is broken at midnight and she has to run. But the prince finds her and she becomes his queen.