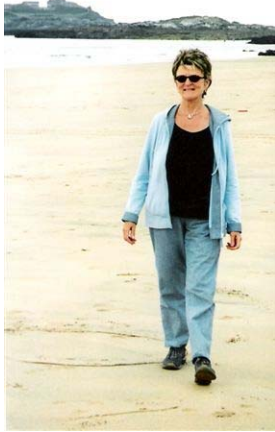


## **Dorothy Coventon**



Dorothy has worked in Africa and Mauritius. Since moving to Cornwall the main focus of her work has been Midwifery and Teaching. She also trained in Human Relations and Counselling. Poetry and writing are new loves/pursuits, along with exploring painting.

### **HEAVEN AND EARTH**

the earth says stay  
I'll give you a body  
your visible soul  
with its roots in me

you will see heaven  
in the mirror  
your branches  
always reaching upwards

stay- and I will show you  
sunrise on a lake  
the first snowdrop  
a babies smile

stay- for the smell of salt sea  
your lover's fragrance  
the perfume of jasmine

stay- for the music  
for laughter on a beach  
for the sound and silence  
of a bluebell wood      stay

stay- feel the sand in your toes  
the rain on your face  
the wind in your hair

stay- taste a prayer on your lips  
dew on a blade of grass  
honey on a clover tip  
your first blackberry

stay- while heaven calls  
you don't need to leave  
to go there

Dorothy Coventon

### **THE COMFORTER**

the sea comforts the shore  
when it misses the moon  
the sky holds the earth in communion  
the land resurrects itself  
from the rape of its jewels

birds baptise themselves daily  
in clear rain water and  
the sweet smell of dawn  
their chorus lifts the sun  
over the horizon

flames of inspiration  
speak the heart  
when the sun meets the night

communion is in silence where  
love cannot be spoken  
prayer is deep it is visceral  
sounds of our own running water  
are on the other side of the mind

words belong in the marketplace  
when we need to know how much  
the worthless rattle of money  
can deafen us

this body saw the spirit die  
though I am with me always  
on each breath resurrected  
I recognise myself  
for the first time

in my paradise womb  
with its own garden of Eden  
my exodus is complete  
when I cross the red sea of blood  
to the promised land

with milk and honey  
my comforter awaits  
arms outstretched  
to lift me up  
we understand without speaking

*Dorothy Coventon*