

Can the old, dying God
inside of you survive?
No.

Not unless He's willing
to be revitalized
by the Goddess within
Not unless He allows
that tender, mighty touch
to give His breathless soul
mouth to mouth
resuscitation
and let Her vital life-force
of open hearted courage,
of vulnerable longing,
of grieving surrender,
of deep, deep beauty,
of connection
back in

Not unless He becomes willing
to let the verses of Her poetry
rewrite His old stories
and put some dance
in the doctrine

Not unless he becomes willing
to let the straight and narrow merge
with with the wide and winding
and make the needle's eye
considerably more accommodating

Not unless He allows
His Wild Woman within
to let down Her hair
and decode His heart
with those wild locks
Not unless He lets Her
take up so much space
inside of Him
He can finally breathe
and relax

Yes, the old, dying God
in humanity's chest
needs emergency treatment,
that Kiss of Life
that comes from admitting
deep frailty,
and the restoration
of finally
falling to our knees
to receive help

For Father God to gather
His true strength,
He must bow before the Her
He's tucked away in Himself
and finally nourished
stand again with a new fullness
God and Goddess
reborn as equals
through humanity's deep breath
and in astonishment of the other
reach out a hand
to close the ancient distance
and weeping and rejoicing say:
"At last!
Let us dance"
—Chelan Harkin