

## **Dust Trails**

*Shelley Jinks Johnson*

Escaping the martyr's life of tragedy,  
My path turns inward.  
Unfettered by guilt and regret,  
My face absorbs the sun.

Moments of days and weeks begin to fill.  
I choose to dance,  
To laugh,  
To touch and love.  
I prefer happiness  
Over brooding infinity.  
Let me live this life in each second  
And never bother to record for posterity's sake.  
To feel each minute,  
As fleeting as the next,  
As temporal as the last.

My life belongs to me,  
And when I go  
I will take it all.  
Every hope and failure,  
Each sadness and heaven-splitting laughter,  
Every promise and each emotion  
That equal my existence  
Will prepare and travel  
With me on my return -  
All back to stardust.