

# The balloon of you

*by Gary Hardaway*

is filled at the start  
with something lighter than air--  
perhaps a mix of spirit, ether, and time--  
and, buoyant, lifts above the gravitied ground  
to float and move with the wind-- but all balloons have  
porous skins and spirit, ether and time leak out,  
imperceptibly (unless thorns burst you open),  
and the mass exceeds the buoyancy  
and gravity pulls you back,  
slowly, to the dust ball  
that made you.

