



## TIRED OF SPEAKING SWEETLY

Love wants to reach out and manhandle us,  
Break all our teacup talk of God.

If you had the courage and  
Could give the Beloved His choice, some nights,  
He would just drag you around the room  
By your hair,  
Ripping from your grip all those toys in the world  
That bring you no joy.

Love sometimes gets tired of speaking sweetly  
And wants to rip to shreds  
All your erroneous notions of truth

That make you fight within yourself, dear one,  
And with others,

Causing the world to weep  
On too many fine days.

God wants to manhandle us,  
Lock us inside of a tiny room with Himself  
And practice His dropkick.

The Beloved sometimes wants  
To do us a great favor:

Hold us upside down  
And shake all the nonsense out.

But when we hear  
He is in such a “playful drunken mood”

Most everyone I know  
Quickly packs their bags and hightails it  
Out of town.

— Hafiz (14th-century Persian poet), trans. Ladinsky