

## December peer poem

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### Beacon

By Marie Marchand

What do I want to say to you  
as you walk through  
your cloud of sorrow?  
That it's not a cloud  
of your own making.  
That the ponderous smoke  
of it belongs to this world.  
That your heart feels the burn  
of wild timber and sky.  
That the deep well of  
your soul reflects the tender  
longing of humanity.  
No, I won't say these things  
even though they may be true.  
What *will* I say to you  
as you walk through  
your cloud of sorrow?  
That the light at the end  
is closer than you think.  
That you don't have to  
make it out of the tunnel  
before you can see it.  
That it's here now.  
That the light is you.  
You are the light. That's it.  
That is what I want to say to you  
as you move bravely  
through this life.  
Walk on, my friend,  
embracing the light  
that blazes within.

*Marie Marchand is the peer support training coordinator at the Health Care Authority. She has been writing poetry for 35 years and is the Inaugural Poet Laureate of Ellensburg, WA.*

