

Beyond Judgment

Not to judge—but to understand
Who knows the inner life of others
private pains
secret sufferings
clandestine ambitions.

Not to judge—but to understanding
to see beneath the coolness
an interior self
too bashful to speak aloud of love
to frightened to embrace the other with both arms.

Judgment is simple, crude, mechanical
Understanding is complex, subtle, personal
Judgment is external
a slavish following of the letter of the law
Understanding reads between the lines
uncovering trembling, unspoken, unadmitted dreams.

We would not be judged by the eye of others
Our faults picked apart
our failings magnified.

We would be heard with the third ear
open to the muted sobs
An ear attentive to the quiet grace
buried in the surface noise of activity.

Place an ear to the soul
to the spirit that is joined
to an understanding God.

