

“O Love, divine Love, why do You lay siege to me?  
In a frenzy of love for me, You find no rest.

From five sides You move against me,  
Hearing, sight, taste, touch, and scent.  
To come out is to be caught; I cannot hide from You.

If I come out through sight I see Love  
Painted in every form and color,  
Inviting me to come to You, to dwell in You.

If I leave through the door of hearing,  
What I hear points only to You, Lord;  
I cannot escape Love through this gage.

If I come out through taste, every flavor proclaims:  
"Love, divine Love, hungry Love!  
You have caught me on Your hook, for you want to reign in me."

If I leave through the door of scent  
I sense You in all creation; You have caught me  
And wounded me through that fragrance.

If I come out through the sense of touch  
I find Your lineaments in every creature;  
To try to flee from You is madness.

Love, I flee from You, afraid to give You my heart:  
I see that You make me one with You,  
I cease to be me and can no longer find myself.

If I see evil in a man or defect or temptation,  
You fuse me with him, and make me suffer;  
O Love without limits, who is it You love?

It is You, O Crucified Christ,  
Who take possession of me,  
Drawing me out of the sea to the shore;

There I suffer to see Your wounded heart.  
Why did You endure the pain?  
So that I might be healed."

— Jacopone Da Todi, The God-Madness