

# Two Poems

by [James Como](#) (December 2019)



*Landscape with Birds*, Lucien Freud, 1950

A Place for Love

Now I have a safe place for love.

I thought I had but she took it all  
and went away and I was bereft.

Here, with me, a white bird is left  
behind as company, to call  
a friend. Fine solace is my dove.



*Crystalline Heaven*, Gustave Dore, 19th cent

### *Gaudeamus Igitur*

How is it to be whole? Either oh-so-high,  
Above the fray, poised and self-possessed,

Or in the cellar of unacknowledged despair,  
a precinct below, too hollow to scare,  
Where petty appetite and sorrow score their  
Mark, feigning grandeur, while trivial  
Souls roil pitifully with quotidian sighs.  
How be whole? Why, learn that to die  
Is part of our poem, sung unto the  
Crystalline sphere with its kaleidoscope  
Of Seraphim and rippling cascades of hope:  
Our storied empyean blazoned gold.  
Trust the holy Singer, then, preparing our place,  
His tale of longing, His advent of grace.

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