

CORRIDORS

**Uncharted pathways wind within your soul.
Doors, barred and sealed,
Confine the lifetime wounds,
Both given and received.
Unsorted, unclaimed, unmarked those wounds –
They fester yet.**

**Stubborn will drives her in
To break the doors
Strung like poisoned teeth along the corridors of her soul.
Confronting fear
Enduring pain
Defeating demons lodged inside
Her courage startles even you
As one by one she beats them down.**

**Wounded pride drives you in.
You watch her pressing deep inside
And you can do no less.
Pain etched corridors
Mar your soul, are lost
In fog and pulsing threat.
You sense the rooms
Along each hall,
Cloaked in dark and brooding fear.**

**You choose one door,
A room of little note.
One push.
 Shadows rear and reach.
Sweat pricks.
 Black shape closes in.
Heart clenches.
 Darkness swells around.
Fear wins,
You turn and fade away.**

**She beckons, guides, beseeches you
To follow well-marked steps
To light the corridors within.
Advance, retreat, advance, retreat
You ache to change but shadows block the way.**

Caution holds your feet, frustration bites your heart.
Without a light you cannot move.
Motionless, you cast no light.
Advance, retreat, advance, retreat
Tortured stillness grips your soul.

In growing dread
You see the price she pays
To clear her soul of shadows cast
By demons large and small.
And though she says
The demons most are naught but
Self-made fears writ large within
That fade away in light,
You see the few that leave their mark
In dying deep within.
The ones that loom with substance more
Than squeaking mice
And rip her soul before they pass
Into their own cold hell.

You fear to find your inner doors –
Who knows what lies behind.
Nor do you know
If warrior's heart resides within your breast.
You fear to find that you have not
Her courage, nor her strength.
And though you envy deep her growth
To light, and peace, and clarity
Within the corridors
Of her soul
You fear to find you lack the means,
The will to claim the rooms within
And bring the light yourself.
You yearn to know her peace
But fear the shadows more.

She will not push beyond your means.
Not all can pay the price
And so she softly pulls away
To face her life alone,
While you build one more room within.

You weep to see her sad eyes fade
Behind the door
You seal within
This latest hall –
This corridor of death.