

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

In today's column, Dawn Potter of Harmony explores the theme of love in the long marriage.

### After Twenty Years

*by Dawn Potter*

It is possible  
that no husband really loves his wife.

Too easy it is to mistake  
their scheduled arrivals and departures, their constancy,  
for something greater than the dim outcroppings  
of loneliness.

When, entrapped again  
in the fervent throes of habit,  
we cry, "Do you love me?"  
they answer yes.

Their manners  
are faultless, restrained.  
They sleep deeply,  
and, in the morning, scraping ashes from the stove,

only rarely do they forget to speak.

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