

## **The Taste of Bitter**

Did you ever taste bitter  
at the back of your tongue?  
Can you remember in response  
what it is that you've done?

Did you rinse it with sweet  
or did it turn into sour?  
Did you flush it with liquor  
or scrubbed it with flour?

I never liked bitter  
I had a tooth for the sweet.  
Just like a tooth for harmony,  
never liked conflict nor meat.

But last night I was told  
to refrain from it all.  
And to let taste and tastebuds  
meet after all.

What happened was strange  
and hard to believe.  
But bitter had a sister  
and she was called grief.

It also had parents  
called joy and called loss,  
cause all that we cherish  
will some day be cross.

I thought bitter was different  
like something was wrong.  
But it's just part of the family,  
like notes in song.

To know all my joy  
and not hasty wither  
Is to know all my loss  
and to taste all that is bitter.