

AMOR VINCIT OMNIA*

Tell me that his love does not run in cycles
Like the planets whirling each about the sun ;
Today if he is lord and I disciple
When daystar breaks, our bond shall be undone.
To him I give my life, my love, my reason,
But like the regularity of years
The time will come when I am not in season
Despite the loving fullness of my tears.
For once the circle starts it stops not easy,
And when it has fulfilled its circuit round
It turns again without a thought about me
And drops my shattered heart upon the ground.
Though love may have the power to win o'er strife
It cannot break the cycle of his life.

—KAREN PELZ

SECOND LOVE

The love which neither clings nor binds nor bothers
The loved one by its all-unfailing strength
Is love which brings but joy unto all others
Who understand its depth and know its length.
For I have known a love that but possesses,
And for a while I know that love returned ;
Yet lacked there in the kiss and sweet caresses
The strong, unfaltering light which should have burned.
The love I feel for you lacks no emotion,
Nor is it weakened by this knowledge true ;
For if the wheels of love remain in motion
They must be moved by no one else but you.
But now I know the love that lives the best
Inspires the heart—but leaves the mind at rest.

—KAREN PELZ

* First place, poetry division, University Writing Contest, 1962.