

## **Ritual**

Glyn Maxwell

Returning to his poem of love  
The same length as a poem of love  
While knowing it was not enough  
To keep love then and not enough

To reach love now he wonders if  
It too believed he wonders if  
It thought that raising him to life  
Was all it took to give It life

For by that logic every day  
It rouses him and sits him down  
In side-rooms on a holiday  
To wonder till the sun goes down

And nothing ever alters it  
The poem of love that was as long  
As poems of love and took as long  
As poems of love and nothing ever

Alters it

## Glyn Maxwell

Glyn Maxwell is a poet, playwright and teacher. His latest books are *New and Selected Poems*, *The Big Calls* and *How The Hell Are You*, which was shortlisted for the Eliot Prize in 2020. His *Extinction Songs* will be published in 2027. He has recently been studying psychology and art therapy and is working on a book about the implications of recent neuroscience for poetry, politics and the wider world. He is Head of Studies on the Writing MA at the Poetry School in London, and muses on poetry and philosophy on his Substack site *Silly Games To Save The World*.

A recording of this piece can be found at [writersmosaic.org.uk](https://writersmosaic.org.uk)

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