

## Eat This Poem

I love this poem and I want you to see why. Read it. Then read it again, slowly. Eat it like a peach—taste it, soft bite by soft bite. Let the words and rhythms roll around on your tongue like peach flesh. You see? This poem is not crunchy like French fries. It's not hard and dry like a bone. It's sweet, luscious, and light—but very filling. Yum.

—Debbie Nevins

Oh, such juicy words:  
nectar, succulent,  
jubilation!

## From Blossoms

By Li-Young Lee

From blossoms comes  
this brown paper bag of peaches  
we bought from the boy  
at the bend in the road where we  
turned toward  
signs painted *Peaches*.

From laden boughs, from hands,  
from sweet fellowship in the bins,  
comes nectar at the roadside, succulent  
peaches we devour, dusty skin and all,  
comes the familiar dust of summer,  
dust we eat.

Li-Young Lee, "From Blossoms" from *Rose*. Copyright © 1986 by Li-Young Lee. Reprinted with permission of BOA Editions, Ltd. [www.boaeditions.org](http://www.boaeditions.org).



O, to take what we love inside,  
to carry within us an orchard, to eat  
not only the skin, but the shade,  
not only the sugar, but the days, to hold  
the fruit in our hands, adore it,  
then bite into  
the round jubilation of peach.

There are days we live  
as if death were nowhere  
in the background; from joy  
to joy to joy, from wing to wing,  
from blossom to blossom to  
impossible blossom, to sweet  
impossible blossom.

Did you ever have a  
moment so perfect that  
you wished you could hold  
it forever?

The peach tastes of  
sugar. (Life and Love)  
It also tastes of dust.  
(Death?)

The poet wants to  
stop time and hold on  
to the joy that is the  
"sweet impossible blossom."

But of course, it's impossible.

**Li-Young Lee** is a Chinese American poet who came to the United States as a child. He has written several books of poetry as well as a memoir.

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