

# Views: The Inside Flying Kite

The Chinese kite drapes its long, multi-colored tail around a beam, tethered to the ceiling in my apartment by a thumbtack. It has never been flown, this kite, but moves restlessly in vagrant drafts creeping under the door, tugging at its string. I imagine it dreams of open blue sky and Spring.

Now it is February and I'm tugging too. I'm dreaming of leaving the four blankets on the bed, the layered clothing, heavy boots behind. I'm totally convinced Spring will never come again. Surely the drifts outside my window, towering over my head where the plow has deposited them, are permanent. Green is the color of my longing. Blue is the sound of my desperation. This kite over my head is without sky and thus without use. Which makes me think of the poetic imagination.

**lynn martin**

Of what use are the leaps my imagination provides? I begin with apples and arrive at the spaceship Challenger. I think of snow and wander to the Aegean Sea. No matter if I've never seen, felt, heard or known, I can dream it into reality. Soon I am holding the kite's string, watching its flailing tail wrap around the wind, awed by height and distance. My legs are bare, my arms are brown, and the sun is hot against my back.

This is the way I survive both winters and life. As long as I can dream, I am warm. The society we live in often silences us. Our very existence can be invisible. So I dream of a world where exploring silences is a primary occupation. Where I can get honest criticism if I am acting out in a way that is destructive to myself or anyone around me. Where I am encouraged to become my finest self, and take that imaginative leap where I can be what a kite was meant to be.

*Lynn Martin is a poet, AIDS educator, and writer who lives in Brattleboro.*



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