

## **Winter's Cloak**

**This year I do not want  
the dark to leave me.**

**I need its wrap  
of silent stillness,  
its cloak  
of long lasting embrace.  
Too much light  
has pulled away  
from the chamber of gestation.**

**Let the dawns  
come late, let the sunsets  
arrive early,  
let the evenings  
extend themselves  
while I lean into  
the abyss of my being.**

**Let me lie in the cave  
of my soul,  
for too much light  
blinds me,  
steals the source of revelation.**

**Let me seek solace  
in the empty places  
of winter's passage,  
those vast dark nights  
that never fail to shelter me.**

**by Joyce Rupp from *The Circle of Life***