

Every second of our time together
We exulted, as if it were epiphany,
We two alone in the world. Lighter
And braver than a bird's wing,
You flew down the stairs
Like dizziness, skipping half of them,
Through wet lilacs into your realm
On the other side of the mirror.

When night fell, I was given a gift.
The doors of the sanctuary opened:
In the darkness, nakedness was lit
And slowly bowed to the ground.
And waking up, I said, "Blessed one,"
Knowing that daring was my blessing:
You slept, and the lilacs
On the table leaned to touch your eyelids
With the blue of the universe
And those eyelids touched by the blue
Were at peace, and your hand was warm.
While in the crystal, rivers pulsed,
Mountains smoked, seas dawned,
And on your palm you held the crystal
Sphere, and on the throne you slept,
And — my God! — you were mine.
You awakened, transfigured
The day-to-day dictionary of man.
Until full-throated force filled
The neck of speech, and "thou" unveiled
Its new meaning: "king of kings."

Everything in the world was new again,
Even simple things — a jug, a basin —
When the layered and solid water
Stood watch between us like a guard.

Something was leading us on.
Built by miracle, cities leapt
Like mirages before our vision.
And mint bowed down beneath our feet,
And birds hovered above our heads.
And fish nosed against the river's flow,
And the sky unfurled above the land...

While behind us, fate followed
Like a madman with a razor in his hand.

First Times Together by Arseny Tarkovsky

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