

RISK

To laugh is to risk being a fool
To weep is to risk being sentimental
To reach out for another is to risk involvement
To show feelings is to risk showing yourself

To place your ideas, your dreams
Before a crowd is to risk their loss
To love is to risk not being loved in return
To live is to risk dying
To hope is to risk despair
To try is to risk failure

But risks must be taken because the greatest
Hazard in life is to risk nothing
Those who risk nothing, have nothing

They may avoid suffering and sorrow
But they cannot learn, feel, change
Grow, love, live

Chained by their certainties, they are slaves
They have forfeited their freedom.
Only a person who risks is truly free.

Anon