

# La'Libertas

## Childhood Prayers

a My first prayers were in Swedish.  
b I mispronounced every word.  
b But I was certain my God heard.  
a Did not know meaning in English.

1 I did not understand the words  
2 but I was fervent in spirit and intent.  
3 I prayed unheard alone in my room.  
4 Expectant, well-meaning, sought answers.  
5 Over my head on slanted white wall  
6 greenish stars glowed in the dark.

b Though my prayers were out-loud shards,  
a sounds with strange symbols, gibberish.  
a Later I wrote prayers not childish,  
b staffs like dedicated shepherds.

1 My laced fingers clutched shut,  
2 no steeple pointed hands.  
3 Prayers sprinkled like stardust  
4 into the cosmos toward God.  
5 In church I learned the Lord's Prayer  
6 where people popped prayers like pills.

1 Gud some haver barnen kar ( God who loves the children)  
2 Se till meg som liten ar ( watch over me who is little)

**La'Libertas:** Created by Laura LaMarca  
22 lines. 4-6-4-6-2 lines per stanza.

Stanza 1: rhyme scheme a-b-b-a 8 syllables per line.

Stanza 2: free verse of six lines.

Stanza 3 rhyme scheme b-a-a-b 8 syllables per line

Stanza 4 free verse of six lines

Couplet: in Italian or any other language