



CONNECTION

MEANING

CURVED LINES

OPEN/CLOSE

MUSIC

POWERFUL

SWIRLS

FRIENDS

CURVED LINES

EXPLORE

THINKING

STRAIGHT FORWARD

HEART

SONG

BONE

BRUISES

LIFE

THERE IS MORE

CREATIVITY

MAKING

SNAKE

ME

CURE

HOPE

FEAR

CALM

FAMILY

THINKING OUT LOUD

FAITH

JAGGED LINES

FREE

ACHE OF NOW

Background to Poem

This poem was composed during an arts programme set up to provide support for a group of young adults who were being treated for or surviving cancer.

During one of the sessions a representative of Arts Care Northern Ireland produced a large tree of life drawing on which each of the programme participants were encouraged to write words which were meaningful to them at this time in their journey. As an Arts Facilitator assisting in the programme I shared this experience, and afterwards I took a photo of the tree so I could think about the words written on the tree.

I noticed that among many - the majority - of courageous and affirming words the one word which seemed glaringly absent was love. Only the heart symbol was drawn, but no one had written the word love.

I wrote the poem with a view to explore why people may feel less loved in an existential sense, by the divine, by the wider world, because their lives may appear more broken than others, and to give the inner cry of the participants hearts a poetic or linguistic expression."