

# A Kite Is a Victim

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Leonard Cohen

A kite is a victim you are sure of.  
You love it because it pulls  
gentle enough to call you master,  
strong enough to call you fool;  
because it lives  
like a desperate trained falcon  
in the high sweet air,  
and you can always haul it down  
to tame it in your drawer.

A kite is a fish you have already caught  
in a pool where no fish come,  
so you play him carefully and long,  
and hope he won't give up,  
or the wind die down.

A kite is the last poem you've written  
so you give it to the wind,  
but you don't let it go  
until someone finds you  
something else to do.

A kite is a contract of glory  
that must be made with the sun,  
so you make friends with the field  
the river and the wind,  
then you pray the whole cold night before,  
under the travelling cordless moon,  
to make you worthy and lyric and pure.

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**Leonard Cohen** (born 1934, Montreal, Quebec), poet, novelist, songwriter, was extremely popular and influential in the 1960s and went on to establish an international reputation. He declined a Governor General's Award in 1968. In 1993, he was awarded a Governor General's Performing Arts Award.

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