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The Mother's Son
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Robert Bly

THE MOTHER'S SON

When the sea sponge is lowered into a pail of water, its holes fill with water, as a man expands who lives with his mother too long.

Once a woman's hand has lowered the sponge into the pail, the sponge turns dark, full of shadow and passion. When sons live plunged into a pail of water under the sink, they live out of sight, like Elvis.

But when a woman's hand lifts out the sponge and squeezes it, what confessions pour out now! What sadness! The sponge turns white and loses its form. Of course it is best if the observer looks away while the water pours out.