

Daniel Whitlow, P-31994
Words Uncaged
(Poem)

“Abandoned Chest Cavity” By: Daniel Whitlow (2012)

I have long since forgotten what to say,
I have the most beautiful dreams of my own death,
One moment
 I'm soaring
 Higher
 Than all things
 Then I tumble
 Head first
Into the sea,
Force-fed my failures
One
By
One,
Choking on the brittleness of my smashed teeth,
Bitter and shattered,
Bouncing around in my skull,

You are the flame that warms me and guides me,
That burns me and brands me,
That scars me and marks me,
That cleanses me of sickness,

But where are you?
I'm trapped in a cage, covered in filth
Are you there?
Please drive these parasites away—I can't escape!
I can't move!
I'm being consumed!
“But where are you?” I scream until I disappear,

You are the flame that warms me and guides me,
That burns me and brands me,
That scars me and marks me,
That cleanses me of sickness,

How has my heart run dry?
I have long since forgotten what to say...