

Stairway
by Kevin Griffin

Awarded 3rd Place in 2013 Short on Words Competition

Stairway, up or down, to
me, you, him, her, it, us them:
to a basement, an attic,
St. Peter's gate, the River Styx.

Stairway to where the pure heart
greeted jealousy and indolence,
where the warm desert's pale
moon hides its darker side.

Stairway to lost purpose, where
the nomad's repentant cries
from the broken house of cracked
voices are no longer heard.

Stairway drowned in shadow:
descend to cavernous pools
of clean water that will bathe
memory's cellar in translucence.

Stairway, up or down, to
I, you, he, she, it, we, they:
an invitation, yes, to dwell
in the house of forever.