

LOVE AFTER LOVE

*The time will come
when, with elation
you will greet yourself arriving
at your own door, in your own mirror,
and each will smile at the other's welcome,*

*and say, sit here. Eat.
You will love again the stranger who was yourself.
Give wine. Give bread. Give back your heart
to itself, to the stranger who has loved you*

*all your life, whom you ignored
for another, who knows you by heart.
Take down the love letters on the bookshelf*

*the photographs, the desperate notes,
peel your own images from the mirror.
Sit. Feast on your life.*

Derek Walcott