

*Awake, O' Spring, A Poem and Interview*  
Mama Linda's Chapbook  
The Peale, Baltimore  
Recorded in March 2021

**Mama Linda Goss (00:03):** Well, oh well, well. Well, oh well, well. My bells are ringing. My soul is singing. I'm the praise singer. I'm a bell-ringer. The truth well up, the storyteller. Awake o spring. Awake in my heart. Winter, you were a loyal companion. However, child, it is time for us to part. Eagerly I await to hear robin's first song and to see young daffodils merrily sing along. Eagerly I await to smell lush cherry blossoms as they breeze across my face. Eagerly I await to walk through Firefly Meadow, my enduring hope place. I don't care if the groundhog saw his shadow, I'm ready to romp and roam through the willows, through sunflower meadow.

**Brother Myles (01:37):** So, Mama Linda, that was a fantastic poem you just read, Awake O Spring. So what inspired you to create that poem?

**Mama Linda Goss (01:46):** I'm glad that you asked that question Brother Myles, because I wrote that poem about, oh my goodness at least around, I would say 2013. Between 2013 and 2014, I think. And I wrote that poem because I was dealing with a really... battle. I was battling cancer, and so I had to be in a lot. I had to be in, actually had to be in the whole winter. And so once I heard the robin sing, I remember hearing a robin sing and I realized that spring was coming. And so I was just inspired to create that poem, to tell spring to wake up, that I'm ready. But I did give praise to winter, because during the winter I was able to heal and get myself together. And so the winter became my companion, it became my friend. But I was ready for the spring to come. And where I live, I always hear the birds sing first, especially the robins. And then I start seeing the daffodils growing, they're the first flowers to grow in my yard, and so that just picks me up. It just gives me joy.

**Mama Linda Goss (03:25):** So I was able to go out when spring came and I went out into a place called Hopewell and that is a cancer support group community. It's a wonderful, fantastic place. And they have a place called Firefly Meadow. And you walk through that meadow and you see willows, you see all kinds of beautiful plant life. And during the summertime you might see bluebirds. That's where I saw bluebirds at Hopewell. I hadn't seen bluebirds, oh my goodness, since I was a child. Had to be about, oh my goodness, about 40 years or more. And out one day when I was out at Hopewell, I asked them, I said, where are the sunflowers? And they told me different locations, different places where I could find sunflowers in Baltimore County, and also in Baltimore.

**Mama Linda Goss (04:55):** And so I discovered these sunflowers. And this was later on in the year because I went to Hopewell, once I discovered it, I went there for, oh for years. And when I asked about the sunflowers, they told me where I could find them and sure enough, my family and I found this sunflower meadow and it just drove me crazy in that I just loved it. I just ran through it. I just was crazy about it. And that's how I feel about different trees. I love weeping willow trees. I love willows. And so I love running through them, dancing with them. So that was the inspiration for that poem. I guess my explanation is longer than the poem itself.

**Brother Myles (05:36):** Yes, but definitely so timely, so timely. And we're literally right around the corner from spring.

**Mama Linda Goss (05:42):** Yes. Yes we are. Yes we are.

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**Brother Myles** (05:45): Always a beautiful time. It's almost like it's a new life.

**Mama Linda Goss** (05:49): Yes, it is.

**Brother Myles** (05:52): And you see this, the flowers coming out, and the birds chirping.

**Mama Linda Goss** (05:54): Yes, yes. It is a new life. You said, I love that term, a new life. A rebirth. It's time to regenerate. It's time to renew, renew and recreate, and see with new eyes and hear with new ears. So yes, I love all of the seasons and I, because each season I realize what I can do and how each season helps me.

**Brother Myles** (06:29): Yes. Yes. I don't know about you Mama Linda, but in my 27 years it's like every time that I come from winter it's literally like a whole new world, and a new life.

**Mama Linda Goss** (06:41): It is. Yes, it truly is.

**Brother Myles** (06:42): You're used to it and you know it's going to happen every year, but it's like every year it's the same feeling. It's amazing. Every time.

**Mama Linda Goss** (06:53): Yes it is. Yes it is.