

SLIP INTO THE SKIN

Slip into the skin of another person.

Take on their attitudes, their karma, their heritage,
Known and unknown.

Take on their history.
See what they've forgotten,
Or never knew, about themselves.

Look at life through their bloodshot eyes and fuzzy mind.

Experience their inability to reason, or plan,
Or think clearly, even about one thing at a time.

Feel their molten anger, mixed with profound regret,
Which they violently deny.

Observe the limits of their understanding,
And their woeful absence of wisdom.

Now, consider all that.
Take a minute, Baby Love.

Can you tell me how, on this green earth,
They could possibly choose to do
Otherwise than they do?

Especially the really nasty, ugly, hateful, smelly ones
Who provide us with the most impossibly difficult,
But absolutely necessary,
Heart wrenching lessons in the difference between
Sympathy and Compassion?

