

RICHARD L. MATTA

Embracing the Unknown Cento

How far the unknown transcends what we know;
to guess it, puzzles scholars,
assured of certain certainties.

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting—
a noiseless patient spider—
the woods are lovely, dark and deep.

ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

“Embracing the Unknown Cento” was created with lines from:

“Nature,” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1878)

[This World is not Conclusion], Emily Dickinson (1896)

“Preludes,” T. S. Eliot (1917)

“If,” Rudyard Kipling (1910)

“A Noiseless Patient Spider,” Walt Whitman (1868)

“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” Robert Frost (1923)

About the poem and the process of composing it, Richard L. Matta writes:

I began the cento writing process by listing favorite poets, reading their work, and finding lines which resonated. I began sensing an approach and sequence of lines coming together toward my theme and worked the line order.

Richard L. Matta’s work has appeared in *The Healing Muse*, *The Dewdrop*, *Ancient Paths*, **82 Review*, *California Quarterly*, and elsewhere. He lives in San Diego, California.

