



**Forum: Grammar i'¼ æ-ʔæ³•i'¼%o**

**Topic: How to translate this phrase?**

**Subject: Re: How to translate this phrase?**

Posted by: Tim Luo

Posted on: 2008/4/25 12:36:53

Is this from Dylan Thomas' Deaths and Entrances?

Quote:

Deaths and Entrances

On almost the incendiary eve  
Of several near deaths,  
When one at the great least of your best loved  
And always known must leave  
Lions and fires of his flying breath,  
Of your immortal friends  
Who'd raise the organs of the counted dust  
To shoot and sing your praise,  
One who called deepest down shall hold his peace  
That cannot sink or cease  
Endlessly to his wound  
In many married London's estranging grief.

On almost the incendiary eve  
When at your lips and keys,  
Locking, unlocking, the murdered strangers weave,  
One who is most unknown,  
Your polestar neighbour, sun of another street,  
Will dive up to his tears.  
He'll bathe his raining blood in the male sea  
Who strode for your own dead  
And wind his globe out of your water thread  
And load the throats of shells  
With every cry since light  
Flashed first across his thunderclapping eyes.

On almost the incendiary eve  
Of deaths and entrances,  
When near and strange wounded on London's waves  
Have sought your single grave,  
One enemy, of many, who knows well  
Your heart is luminous  
In the watched dark, quivering through locks and caves,  
Will pull the thunderbolts  
To shut the sun, plunge, mount your darkened keys

And sear just riders back,  
Until that one loved least  
Looms the last Samson of your zodiac.

<Content from [http://www.undermilkwood.net/poetry\\_deathsandentrances.html](http://www.undermilkwood.net/poetry_deathsandentrances.html) >

From the context, it seems to refer to one of the people you love best. Here "at the great least" seems to be an emphatic form of "at least". So it can be rephrased as "When one who could be (nevertheless) at least counted as one of your best loved"

Hope this helps.

Tim