

Wind and flame

by [Susan Delaney Spear](#) in the [July 5, 2017](#) issue

*"If you will, you can become all flame."*

—Abba Joseph

The wind is wild; the fire is not tame.  
You mouth the prayers, recite the ancient creed.  
*If you will, you can become all flame.*

You scour the Scriptures, making truth your aim.  
You advertise your goodness, deed by deed.  
The wind is wild; the fire is not tame.

You pay your tithe to stake a heavenly claim.  
You aid the poor to justify your greed.  
*If you will, you can become all flame.*

You pass the peace and play your high church game.  
Yawning at tradition, you accede.  
The wind is wild; the fire is not tame.

With your voice you sing and praise God's name  
Then utter words that cut and make men bleed.  
*If you will, you can become all flame.*

Refining fire and wind want to reclaim  
You. They'll sear and burn and not recede.  
The wind is wild; the fire is not tame.  
*But if you will, you can become all flame.*