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## Vae Victis

*by Emanuel Gherghinoiu, ASPE*

I love you with all the battles  
I never got to fight,  
with every broken flag at dawn  
that never danced in the wind,  
with the rusted armor  
of an unlived dream.

I love you with every wound  
that never touched the skin  
but bled my silence dry  
when I couldn't call your name,  
with every step  
I never took toward you,  
with every kiss  
kept behind closed lips.

I am the warrior  
who never found his war,  
yet carries within him  
the glory of a love  
lost before it could begin.

I love you with all we never were,  
with all we could have been,  
in a world where we hold hands  
beneath a rain that never falls ... Ω