

## **Both and All!**

**By Tim Powers-Reed**

**Why choose?**

**Why let the world box me in with their “either/or”?**

**Why dim my light to fit their grayscale world**

**When my heart beats in colors they’ve never even named?**

**I am the sun,**

**Blazing equally on every horizon.**

**I am the sea,**

**Reaching every shore with open arms.**

**And I refuse—**

**Refuse to be a checkbox, a category, a single shade of paint**

**On this infinite canvas of humanity.**

**Why not both?**

**Why not the depth of his laughter and the curve of her smile?**

**Why not the strength in their hands, the fire in their eyes,**

**The way they all make me feel alive?**

**Love isn’t a question with just one answer.**

**It's the song in my soul,  
A melody that shifts, changes, and grows,  
Too big for the tiny boxes the world tries to shove it into.**

**They ask, "What are you?"  
And I smile.  
I am truth and contradiction.  
A paradox that feels no need to apologize.**

**Both.  
And more.  
And all.**

**Because life isn't about halves,  
It's about the whole.  
It's about embracing the pieces,  
Letting them dance together,  
Forming a mosaic of something beautiful,  
Something free,  
Something me.**

**So, let them wonder.**

**Let them question.**

**Let them label if they must.**

**But me?**

**I'll just keep loving.**

**Without borders,**

**Without fear,**

**Without permission.**

**I'll take my place in the world—**

**Not as a puzzle to solve**

**But as a masterpiece to behold.**

**And I'll love.**

**Her. Him. Them.**

**With no apology, no hesitation.**

**Because why choose?**

**When I was made for all of this.**

**For both,**

**And more.**

**And all.**