

*Circles: original art, Lonnie Hanson*



*The moon is most happy  
When it is full.*

*And the sun always looks  
Like a perfectly minted gold coin*

*That was just polished  
And placed in flight  
By Divinity's playful kiss.*

*And so many varieties of fruit  
Hang plump and round*

*From branches that seem like a Sculptor's hands.*

*I see the beautiful curve of a pregnant belly  
Shaped by a soul within,*

*And Earth itself,  
And the planets and the spheres—*

*I have gotten the hint:*

*There is something about circles  
The Beloved likes.*

*Hafiz,  
Within the Circle of the Perfect One*

*There is an Infinite Community  
Of Light.*

*Hafiz (1320-1389) is the most beloved poet of Persia. Born in Shiraz, he lived at about the same time as Chaucer in England and about one hundred years after Rumi. This beautiful translation is by Daniel Ladinsky, I Heard God Laughing: Poems of Hope and Joy (Penguin, 2006), and is used with the permission of the author.*