

# *Love Letter to Leopold*

TO: Leopold the Lizard

Address: My Bathroom Window

Dear Leopold, Companion of Mine:

We've talked often –

Well, I've talked and you've listened,  
your head cocked sideways in order to hear  
my plans, my songs, my talks with our Creator.

You've also watched –

serenely clinging to the screen  
or peeping in from around the window frame.

To my joy, Leopold, - -

You've been there faithfully,  
joining me in each morning's shower,  
but always you on the outside  
and me on the inside of that screen.

Once, your tail slipped inside –  
while you were peeping in.

I was overwhelmed with a need to touch you,  
to have you openly rest in my hands  
or serenely cling to my shoulder  
in order to peep out the window together.

But as I started to reach –  
to touch your tail,  
sadness gripped my heart,  
and my hand reached,  
but it never touched.

I had come to love you –  
but you had no way of knowing that,  
my heart was (and still is) aching,  
aching to find a way for you to know,  
some signal that would  
free you to come inside the screen.

But, my outreached hand fell back –  
for my touch would have caused you fear.  
Where there is love, Leopold, there is no fear,  
true, God-centered love, that is.

And, that is true here –  
in love, I see your need for the screen,  
and in love, I will not forsake your need.

So, Leopold –  
We'll meet each morning  
and we'll talk...  
Well, you'll listen and watch,  
and I'll talk and sing  
and praise our Maker...  
and we will be thankful for the screen  
and for one another.

–*Tanya Kunze*