

For the New Year, 1981

Aga Zaryan

I have a small grain of hope -
one small crystal that gleams
clear colours out of transparency.

I need more.

I break off a fragment to send you.

Please take
this grain of a grain of hope
so that mine won't shrink.

Please share your fragment
so that yours will grow.

Only so, by division,
will hope increase,

like a clump of irises, which will cease to flower
unless you distribute
the clustered roots, unlikely source -
clumsy and earth - covered
of grace.

Lyrics: Denise Levertov; Music: David Doruzka