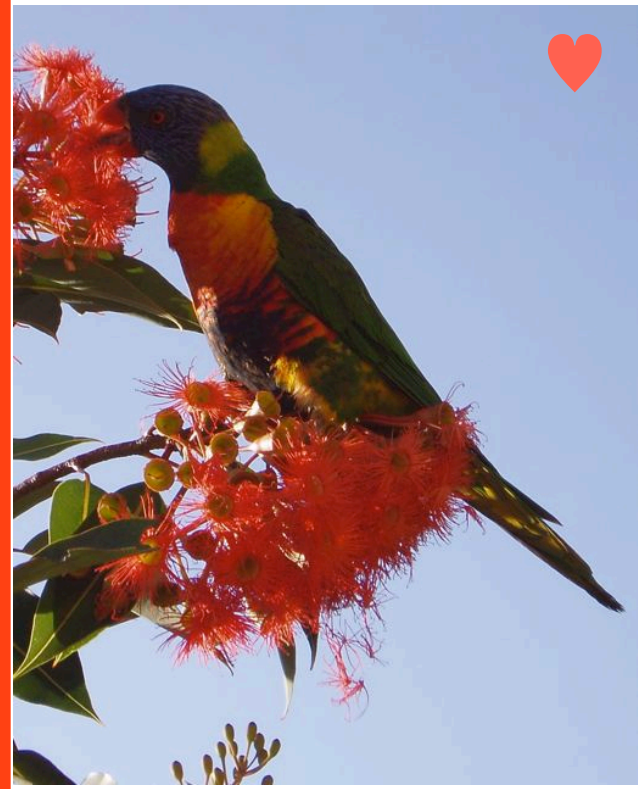


Poem by Sufi Mystic Hafiz.  
Translation by Daniel Ladinsky  
from his book 'The Gift'. Photo by Georgia



Some parrots  
Have become so skilled  
With the human voice

They could give a brilliant discourse  
About freedom and God

And an unsighted person nearby  
Might even begin applauding  
With the thought:

I just heard jewels fall  
From a great saint's mouth,

Though my master used to say,

"The diamond takes shape slowly  
With integrity's great force

And from  
The profound courage  
to never relinquish love."

Some parrots have become so skilled  
With words

The blind turn over their gold  
And lives  
To caged feathers.