

MARGARET DIESENDORF

Another Clytie

It would be worth while
(Would it not?) losing a lover —
even the sungod — if one was changed
into a heliotrope ...

What usually occurs, is this:
She who was deserted
changes into a pillar of salt;
but to become a flower

bent towards the sun,
elegantly petalled & tall,
a friend of all
other flowers & of their flying hosts,

soft as silk & fragrant, free of jealousy
& greed — save for a thirst
(& this would be *sui generis* since
Clytie, the first of the species, was a nymph.)

So let me change into a heliotrope
& keep turning towards my sun ...
free of bitterness & grateful even
for its circumstantial warming touch.