



Tyger Tyger Magazine

Dandelion

by Gita Ralleigh

Snaggled between pavement cracks, you're *dentes de leon*, toothed lion, *tarakshaqūn*, bitter-leaf herb, until the ragged petals shake loose, become the dazzling yellow of a sun, if the sun was a flower. Each flower of yours is one hundred flowers, strung on fields of green like golden lamps. No one sees you in between, but suddenly you're a tufted cloud, a puffball of silk-furred aeronauts, ready for launch on my blown-out breath. And after all these feats of gold, green and silver seed? I'm surprised they dare to call you a weed!

dentes de leon – the French word for dandelion, meaning 'teeth of the lion'

tarakshaqūn – an Arabic word meaning 'bitter herb', origin of the word 'Taraxacum', which is the botanical name of the dandelion family

