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**At The Threshold of Womanhood**

It is like awakening into a morning  
Where everything is touched with change,  
Now your body has a mind of its own  
As it curves and fills into womanhood.

The lightness of being a girl is leaving  
And your thoughts too are taking you  
To places you have never known.

Becoming a woman, you feel the moon  
Tug at your blood, and you begin to sense  
The mysteries of your new body.

May you enter beautifully into the feminine,  
Learning to trust the world of feeling you inherit,  
Finding ease and elegance in all you are.

May your respect for your beauty  
Become visible in your dignity  
And how you hold yourself in the world.

May the expectation of other eyes  
Never decide how you are to be;  
Learn to trust the advice of your heart.

May you feel life as an irresistible invitation  
To discover and develop your talents,  
Each day bringing something new to birth.

May you be wise in choosing love;  
When you trust, give all your heart  
And allow love to pervade you like breath.

May you have friends who can see you.  
May your senses be windows of wonder  
And your mind a prism of spirit.

John O’Donohue - Benedictus