

**The rose petal bled,
and stained the fingers
of the hand that plucked it
from its beauteous whole.**

A note to the poem RAPE by Oscar Treadwell

**The rose represents the raped.
The hand represents the rapist.
The raped and the rapist are both victims.
There is no absolution for the rapist.
There is no forgiveness from the raped.
The stain on the fingers of the rapist will never wash away.
The raped will never feel whole again.
The victims stand alone.
Others will find compassion for them, hope for them.
They will live with the evil for the rest of their lives.**