



*Two Bald Eagles fighting over a salmon, Chilkat River, near Haines, Alaska. Photo © John L. Dengler / DenglerImages.com*

# The Dalliance of the Eagles

Walt Whitman

ca.1891-1892

*Skirting the river road, (my forenoon walk, my rest,)  
Skyward in air a sudden muffled sound, the dalliance of the eagles,  
The rushing amorous contact high in space together,  
The clinching interlocking claws, a living, fierce, gyrating wheel,  
Four beating wings, two beaks, a swirling mass tight grappling,  
In tumbling turning clustering loops, straight downward falling,  
Till o'er the river pois'd, the twain yet one, a moment's lull,  
A motionless still balance in the air, then parting, talons loosing,  
Upward again on slow-firm pinions slanting, their separate diverse flight,  
She hers, he his, pursuing.*

*Credit: Leaves of Grass, Walt Whitman*