

**Look! We Have Come
Through!**

by

D. H. Lawrence

Look! We Have Come Through!

MOONRISE

AND who has seen the moon, who has not seen
Her rise from out the chamber of the deep,
Flushed and grand and naked, as from the chamber
Of finished bridegroom, seen her rise and throw
Confession of delight upon the wave,
Littering the waves with her own superscription
Of bliss, till all her lambent beauty shakes towards
us

Spread out and known at last, and we are sure
That beauty is a thing beyond the grave,
That perfect, bright experience never falls
To nothingness, and time will dim the moon
Sooner than our full consummation here
In this odd life will tarnish or pass away.

ELEGY

THE sun immense and rosy
Must have sunk and become extinct
The night you closed your eyes for ever against me.
Grey days, and wan, dree dawnings
Since then, with fritter of flowers
Day wearies me with its ostentation and fawnings.
Still, you left me the nights,
The great dark glittery window,
The bubble hemming this empty existence with
lights.
Still in the vast hollow
Like a breath in a bubble spinning
Brushing the stars, goes my soul, that skims the
bounds like a swallow!
I can look through
The film of the bubble night, to where you are.
Through the film I can almost touch you.

EASTWOOD

NONENTITY

THE stars that open and shut
Fall on my shallow breast
Like stars on a pool.
The soft wind, blowing cool
Laps little crest after crest
Of ripples across my breast.
And dark grass under my feet
Seems to dabble in me
Like grass in a brook.
Oh, and it is sweet
To be all these things, not to be
Any more myself.
For look,
I am weary of myself!
MARTYR À LA MODE

AH God, life, law, so many names you keep,
You great, you patient Effort, and you Sleep
That does inform this various dream of living,
You sleep stretched out for ever, ever giving
Us out as dreams, you august Sleep
Coursed round by rhythmic movement of all
time,
The constellations, your great heart, the sun
Fierily pulsing, unable to refrain;
Since you, vast, outstretched, wordless Sleep
Permit of no beyond, ah you, whose dreams
We are, and body of sleep, let it never be said
I quailed at my appointed function, turned poltroon
For when at night, from out the full surcharge
Of a day's experience, sleep does slowly draw
The harvest, the spent action to itself;
Leaves me unburdened to begin again;
At night, I say, when I am gone in sleep,
Does my slow heart rebel, do my dead hands
Complain of what the day has had them do?
Never let it be said I was poltroon

At this my task of living, this my dream,
This me which rises from the dark of sleep
In white flesh robed to drape another dream,
As lightning comes all white and trembling
From out the cloud of sleep, looks round about
One moment, sees, and swift its dream is over,
In one rich drip it sinks to another sleep,
And sleep thereby is one more dream enriched.
If so the Vast, the God, the Sleep that still grows
richer

Have said that I, this mote in the body of sleep
Must in my transiency pass all through pain,
Must be a dream of grief, must like a crude
Dull meteorite flash only into light
When tearing through the anguish of this life,
Still in full flight extinct, shall I then turn
Poltroon, and beg the silent, outspread God
To alter my one speck of doom, when round me
burns

The whole great conflagration of all life,
Lapped like a body close upon a sleep,
Hiding and covering in the eternal Sleep
Within the immense and toilsome lifetime,
heaved

With ache of dreams that body forth the Sleep?
Shall I, less than the least red grain of flesh
Within my body, cry out to the dreaming soul
That slowly labours in a vast travail,
To halt the heart, divert the streaming flow
That carries moons along, and spare the stress
That crushes me to an unseen atom of fire?
When pain and all

And grief are but the same last wonder, Sleep
Rising to dream in me a small keen dream
Of sudden anguish, sudden over and spent

CROYDON

DON JUAN

IT is Isis the mystery
Must be in love with me.
Here this round ball of earth
Where all the mountains sit
Solemn in groups,
And the bright rivers flit
Round them for girth.
Here the trees and troops
Darken the shining grass,
And many people pass
Plundered from heaven,
Many bright people pass,
Plunder from heaven.
What of the mistresses
What the beloved seven?
They were but witnesses,
I was just driven.
Where is there peace for me?
Isis the mystery
Must be in love with me.

THE SEA

You, you are all unloving, loveless, you;
Restless and lonely, shaken by your own moods,
You are celibate and single, scorning a comrade even,
Threshing your own passions with no woman for
the threshingfloor,
Finishing your dreams for your own sake only,
Playing your great game around the world, alone,
Without playmate, or helpmate, having no one to
cherish,
No one to comfort, and refusing any comforter.
Not like the earth, the spouse all full of increase
Moiled over with the rearing of her manymouthed
young;
You are single, you are fruitless, phosphorescent,
cold and callous,

Naked of worship, of love or of adornment,
Scorning the panacea even of labour,
Sworn to a high and splendid purposelessness
Of brooding and delighting in the secret of life's
goings,
Sea, only you are free, sophisticated.
You who toil not, you who spin not,
Surely but for you and your like, toiling
Were not worth while, nor spinning worth the
effort!
You who take the moon as in a sieve, and sift
Her flake by flake and spread her meaning out;
You who roll the stars like jewels in your palm,
So that they seem to utter themselves aloud;
You who step from out the days their colour,
Reveal the universal tint that dyes
Their web; who shadow the sun's great gestures
and expressions
So that he seems a stranger in his passing;
Who voice the dumb night fittingly;
Sea, you shadow of all things, now mock us to
death with your shadowing.

BOURNEMOUTH

HYMN TO PRIAPUS

MY love lies underground
With her face upturned to mine,
And her mouth unclosed in a last long kiss
That ended her life and mine.
I dance at the Christmas party
Under the mistletoe
Along with a ripe, slack country lass
Jostling to and fro.
The big, soft country lass,
Like a loose sheaf of wheat
Slipped through my arms on the threshing floor
At my feet.
The warm, soft country lass,
Sweet as an armful of wheat

At threshingtime broken, was broken
For me, and ah, it was sweet!
Now I am going home
Fulfilled and alone,
I see the great Orion standing
Looking down.
He's the star of my first beloved
Lovemaking.
The witness of all that bittersweet
Heartaching.
Now he sees this as well,
This last commission.
Nor do I get any look
Of admonition.
He can add the reckoning up
I suppose, between now and then,
Having walked himself in the thorny, difficult
Ways of men.
He has done as I have done
No doubt:
Remembered and forgotten
Turn and about.
My love lies underground
With her face upturned to mine,
And her mouth unclosed in the last long kiss
That ended her life and mine.
She fares in the stark immortal
Fields of death;
I in these goodly, frozen
Fields beneath.
Something in me remembers
And will not forget.
The stream of my life in the darkness
Deathward set!
And something in me has forgotten,
Has ceased to care.
Desire comes up, and contentment
Is debonair.
I, who am worn and careful,
How much do I care?
How is it I grin then, and chuckle

Over despair?
Grief, grief, I suppose and sufficient
Grief makes us free
To be faithless and faithful together
As we have to be.

BALLAD OF A WILFUL WOMAN

FIRST PART

UPON her plodding palfrey
With a heavy child at her breast
And Joseph holding the bridle
They mount to the last hillcrest.
Dissatisfied and weary
She sees the blade of the sea
Dividing earth and heaven
In a glitter of ecstasy.
Sudden a darkfaced stranger
With his back to the sun, holds out
His arms; so she lights from her palfrey
And turns her round about.
She has given the child to Joseph,
Gone down to the flashing shore;
And Joseph, shading his eyes with his hand,
Stands watching evermore.

SECOND PART

THE sea in the stones is singing,
A woman binds her hair
With yellow, frail seapoppies,
That shine as her fingers stir.
While a naked man comes swiftly
Like a spurt of white foam rent
From the crest of a falling breaker,
Over the poppies sent.
He puts his surfwet fingers
Over her startled eyes,
And asks if she sees the land, the land,
The land of her glad surmise.

THIRD PART

AGAIN in her blue, blue mantle
Riding at Joseph's side,
She says, "I went to Cythera,
And woe betide!"
Her heart is a swinging cradle
That holds the perfect child,
But the shade on her forehead ill becomes
A mother mild.
So on with the slow, mean journey
In the pride of humility;
Till they halt at a cliff on the edge of the land
Over a sullen sea.
While Joseph pitches the sleeptent
She goes far down to the shore
To where a man in a heaving boat
Waits with a lifted oar.

FOURTH PART

THEY dwelt in a huge, hoarse seacave
And looked far down the dark
Where an archway torn and glittering
Shone like a huge seaspark.
He said: "Do you see the spirits
Crowding the bright doorway?"
He said: "Do you hear them whispering?"
He said: "Do you catch what they say?"

FIFTH PART

THEN Joseph, grey with waiting,
His dark eyes full of pain,
Heard: "I have been to Patmos;
Give me the child again."
Now on with the hopeless journey
Looking bleak ahead she rode,
And the man and the child of no more account
Than the earth the palfrey trode.
Till a beggar spoke to Joseph,

But looked into her eyes;
So she turned, and said to her husband:
"I give, whoever denies."

SIXTH PART

SHE gave on the open heather
Beneath bare judgment stars,
And she dreamed of her children and Joseph,
And the isles, and her men, and her scars.
And she woke to distil the berries
The beggar had gathered at night,
Whence he drew the curious liquors
He held in delight.
He gave her no crown of flowers,
No child and no palfrey slow,
Only led her through harsh, hard places
Where strange winds blow.
She follows his restless wanderings
Till night when, by the fire's red stain,
Her face is bent in the bitter steam
That comes from the flowers of pain.
Then merciless and ruthless
He takes the flamewild drops
To the town, and tries to sell them
With the marketcrops.
So she follows the cruel journey
That ends not anywhere,
And dreams, as she stirs the mixingpot,
She is brewing hope from despair.

TRIER

FIRST MORNING

THE night was a failure but why not?

In the darkness with the pale dawn seething at the window through the black frame I
could not be free, not free myself from the past, those others and our love was a
confusion, there was a horror, you recoiled away from me.

Now, in the morning
As we sit in the sunshine on the seat by the little
shrine,
And look at the mountainwalls,
Walls of blue shadow,
And see so near at our feet in the meadow
Myriads of dandelion pappus
Bubbles ravelled in the dark green grass
Held still beneath the sunshine
It is enough, you are near
The mountains are balanced,
The dandelion seeds stay halfsubmerged in the
grass;
You and I together
We hold them proud and blithe
On our love.
They stand upright on our love,
Everything starts from us,
We are the source.

BEUERBERG

"AND OH THAT THE MAN I AM MIGHT CEASE TO BE"

No, now I wish the sunshine would stop, and the white shining houses, and the gay red flowers on the balconies and the bluish mountains beyond, would be crushed out between two valves of darkness; the darkness falling, the darkness rising, with muffled sound obliterating everything.

I wish that whatever props up the walls of light would fall, and darkness would come hurling heavily down, and it would be thick black dark for ever. Not sleep, which is grey with dreams, nor death, which quivers with birth, but heavy, sealing darkness, silence, all immovable.

What is sleep? It goes over me, like a shadow over a hill, but it does not alter me, nor help me. And death would ache still, I am sure; it would be lambent, uneasy. I wish it would be completely dark everywhere, inside me, and out, heavily dark utterly.

WOLFRATSHAUSEN

SHE LOOKS BACK

THE pale bubbles
The lovely palegold bubbles of the globeflowers
In a great swarm clotted and single
Went rolling in the dusk towards the river
To where the sunset hung its wan gold cloths;
And you stood alone, watching them go,
And that motherlove like a demon drew you
from me
Towards England.
Along the road, after nightfall,
Along the glamorous birchtree avenue
Across the river levels
We went in silence, and you staring to England.
So then there shone within the jungle darkness
Of the long, lush undergrass, a glowworm's
sudden
Green lantern of pure light, a little, intense, fusing
triumph,
White and haloed with firemist, down in the
tangled darkness.
Then you put your hand in mine again, kissed me,
and we struggled to be together.
And the little electric flashes went with us, in the
grass,
Tiny lighthouses, little souls of lanterns, courage
burst into an explosion of green light
Everywhere down in the grass, where darkness was
ravelled in darkness.
Still, the kiss was a touch of bitterness on my mouth
Like salt, burning in.
And my hand withered in your hand.
For you were straining with a wild heart, back,
back again,
Back to those children you had left behind, to all
the æons of the past.
And I was here in the underdusk of the Isar.
At home, we leaned in the bedroom window

Of the old Bavarian Gasthaus,
And the frogs in the pool beyond thrilled with
exuberance,
Like a boiling pot the pond crackled with happiness,
Like a rattle a child spins round for joy, the night
rattled

With the extravagance of the frogs,
And you leaned your cheek on mine,
And I suffered it, wanting to sympathise.
At last, as you stood, your white gown falling from
your breasts,
You looked into my eyes, and said: "But this is
joy!"

I acquiesced again.
But the shadow of lying was in your eyes,
The mother in you, fierce as a murderess, glaring
to England,
Yearning towards England, towards your young
children,
Insisting upon your motherhood, devastating.
Still, the joy was there also, you spoke truly,
The joy was not to be driven off so easily;
Stronger than fear or destructive motherlove, it
stood flickering;
The frogs helped also, whirring away.
Yet how I have learned to know that look in your
eyes

Of horrid sorrow!
How I know that glitter of salt, dry, sterile,
sharp, corrosive salt!
Not tears, but white sharp brine
Making hideous your eyes.

I have seen it, felt it in my mouth, my throat, my chest, my belly, Burning of powerful
salt, burning, eating through my defenceless nakedness. I have been thrust into white,
sharp crystals, Writhing, twisting, superpenetrated.

Ah, Lot's Wife, Lot's Wife!
The pillar of salt, the whirling, horrible column
of salt, like a waterspout
That has enveloped me!
Snow of salt, white, burning, eating salt

In which I have writhed.
Lot's Wife! Not Wife, but Mother.
I have learned to curse your motherhood,
You pillar of salt accursed.
I have cursed motherhood because of you,
Accursed, base motherhood!
I long for the time to come, when the curse against
you will have gone out of my heart.
But it has not gone yet.
Nevertheless, once, the frogs, the globeflowers of
Bavaria, the glowworms
Gave me sweet lymph against the saltburns,
There is a kindness in the very rain.
Therefore, even in the hour of my deepest, pas-
sionate malediction
I try to remember it is also well between us.
That you are with me in the end.
That you never look quite back; ninety-ninths, ah,
more
You look round over your shoulder;
But never quite back.
Nevertheless the curse against you is still in my
heart
Like a deep, deep burn.
The curse against all mothers.
All mothers who fortify themselves in motherhood,
devastating the vision.
They are accursed, and the curse is not taken off
It burns within me like a deep, old burn,
And oh, I wish it was better.

BEUERBERG

ON THE BALCONY

IN front of the sombre mountains, a faint, lost
ribbon of rainbow;
And between us and it, the thunder;
And down below in the green wheat, the labourers
Stand like dark stumps, still in the green wheat.
You are near to me, and your naked feet in their

sandals,
And through the scent of the balcony's naked
timber
I distinguish the scent of your hair: so now the
limber
Lightning falls from heaven.
Adown the palegreen glacier river floats
A dark boat through the gloom and whither?
The thunder roars. But still we have each other!
The naked lightnings in the heavens dither
And disappear what have we but each other?
The boat has gone.

ICKING

FROHNLEICHNAM

You have come your way, I have come my way; You have stepped across your people,
carelessly, hurting them all; I have stepped across my people, and hurt them in spite of
my care.

But steadily, surely, and notwithstanding
We have come our ways and met at last
Here in this upper room.
Here the balcony
Overhangs the street where the bullockwagons
slowly
Go by with their loads of green and silver birch
trees
For the feast of Corpus Christi.
Here from the balcony
We look over the growing wheat, where the jade
green river
Goes between the pinewoods,
Over and beyond to where the many mountains
Stand in their blueness, flashing with snow and the
morning.
I have done; a quiver of exultation goes through
me, like the first
Breeze of the morning through a narrow white
birch.

You glow at last like the mountain tops when they
catch
Day and make magic in heaven.
At last I can throw away world without end, and
meet you
Unsheathed and naked and narrow and white;
At last you can throw immortality off, and I see you
Glistening with all the moment and all your
beauty.
Shameless and callous I love you;
Out of indifference I love you;
Out of mockery we dance together,
Out of the sunshine into the shadow,
Passing across the shadow into the sunlight,
Out of sunlight to shadow.
As we dance
Your eyes take all of me in as a communication;
As we dance
I see you, ah, in full!
Only to dance together in triumph of being together
Two white ones, sharp, vindicated,
Shining and touching,
Is heaven of our own, sheer with repudiation.

IN THE DARK

A BLOTCH of pallor stirs beneath the high
Square picturedusk, the window of dark sky.
A sound subdued in the darkness: tears!
As if a bird in difficulty up the valley steers.
"Why have you gone to the window? Why don't
you sleep?
How you have wakened me! But why, why do
you weep?"
"I am afraid of you, I am afraid, afraid! There is something in you destroys me!"
"You have dreamed and are not awake, come here to me." "No, I have wakened. It is you,
you are cruel to me!"
"My dear!" "Yes, yes, you are cruel to me. You
cast

A shadow over my breasts that will kill me at last."

"Come!" "No, I'm a thing of life. I give

You armfuls of sunshine, and you won't let me live."

"Nay, I'm too sleepy!" "Ah, you are horrible; You stand before me like ghosts, like a
darkness upright."

"I!" "How can you treat me so, and love me?

My feet have no hold, you take the sky from above me."

"My dear, the night is soft and eternal, no doubt

You love it!" "It is dark, it kills me, I am put out."

"My dear, when you cross the street in the sun
shine, surely

Your own small night goes with you. Why treat
it so poorly?"

"No, no, I dance in the sun, I'm a thing of life" "Even then it is dark behind you. Turn
round, my wife."

"No, how cruel you are, you people the sunshine With shadows!" "With yours I people
the sunshine, yours and mine"

"In the darkness we all are gone, we are gone
with the trees

And the restless river; we are lost and gone
with all these."

"But I am myself, I have nothing to do with these." "Come back to bed, let us sleep on
our mys teries.

"Come to me here, and lay your body by mine,
And I will be all the shadow, you the shine.

"Come, you are cold, the night has frightened you.

Hark at the river! It pants as it hurries through

"The pinewoods. How I love them so, in their mystery of nottobe." "But let me be myself,
not a river or a tree."

"Kiss me! How cold you are! Your little breasts Are bubbles of ice. Kiss me! You know
how it rests

"One to be quenched, to be given up, to be gone
in the dark;

To be blown out, to let night dowse the spark.

"But never mind, my love. Nothing matters,

save sleep;
Save you, and me, and sleep; all the rest will
keep."

MUTILATION

A THICK mistsheet lies over the broken wheat.
I walk up to my neck in mist, holding my mouth up.
Across there, a discoloured moon burns itself out.
I hold the night in horror;
I dare not turn round.
Tonight I have left her alone.
They would have it I have left her for ever.
Oh my God, how it aches
Where she is cut off from me!
Perhaps she will go back to England.
Perhaps she will go back,
Perhaps we are parted for ever.
If I go on walking through the whole breadth of
Germany
I come to the North Sea, or the Baltic.
Over there is RussiaAustria, Switzerland, France, in a circle! I here in the undermist on
the Bavarian road.

It aches in me.
What is England or France, far off,
But a name she might take?
I don't mind this continent stretching, the sea far
away;
It aches in me for her
Like the agony of limbs cut off and aching;
Not even longing,
It is only agony.
A cripple!
Oh God, to be mutilated!
To be a cripple!
And if I never see her again?

I think, if they told me so
I could convulse the heavens with my horror.
I think I could alter the frame of things in my

agony.
I think I could break the System with my heart.
I think, in my convulsion, the skies would break.
She too suffers.
But who could compel her, if she chose me against
them all?
She has not chosen me finally, she suspends her
choice.
Night folk, Tuatha De Danaan, dark Gods, govern
her sleep,
Magnificent ghosts of the darkness, carry off her
decision in sleep,
Leave her no choice, make her lapse meward,
make her,
Oh Gods of the living Darkness, powers of Night.

WOLFRATSHAUSEN

HUMILIATION

I HAVE been so innerly proud, and so long alone,
Do not leave me, or I shall break.
Do not leave me.
What should I do if you were gone again
So soon?
What should I look for?
Where should I go?
What should I be, I myself,
"I"?
What would it mean, this
I?
Do not leave me.

What should I think of death?
If I died, it would not be you:
It would be simply the same
Lack of you.
The same want, life or death,
Unfulfilment,
The same insanity of space
You not there for me.

Think, I daren't die
For fear of the lack in death.
And I daren't live.
Unless there were a morphine or a drug.

I would bear the pain.
But always, strong, unremitting
It would make me not me.
The thing with my body that would go on
living
Would not be me.
Neither life nor death could help.
Think, I couldn't look towards death
Nor towards the future:
Only not look.
Only myself
Stand still and bind and blind myself.
God, that I have no choice!
That my own fulfilment is up against me
Timelessly!
The burden of selfaccomplishment!
The charge of fulfilment!
And God, that she is necessary!
Necessary, and I have no choice!
Do not leave me.

A YOUNG WIFE

THE pain of loving you
Is almost more than I can bear.
I walk in fear of you.
The darkness starts up where
You stand, and the night comes through
Your eyes when you look at me.
Ah never before did I see
The shadows that live in the sun!
Now every tall glad tree
Turns round its back to the sun
And looks down on the ground, to see
The shadow it used to shun.
At the foot of each glowing thing

A night lies looking up.
Oh, and I want to sing
And dance, but I can't lift up
My eyes from the shadows: dark
They lie spilt round the cup.
What is it? Hark
The faint fine seethe in the air!
Like the seething sound in a shell!
It is death still seething where
The wildflower shakes its bell
And the sky lark twinkles blue
The pain of loving you
Is almost more than I can bear.

GREEN

THE dawn was applegreen,
The sky was green wine held up in the sun,
The moon was a golden petal between.
She opened her eyes, and green
They shone, clear like flowers undone
For the first time, now for the first time seen.

ICKING

RIVER ROSES

BY the Isar, in the twilight
We were wandering and singing,
By the Isar, in the evening
We climbed the huntsman's ladder and sat
swinging
In the fir tree overlooking the marshes,
While river met with river, and the ringing
Of their palegreen glacier water filled the evening.
By the Isar, in the twilight
We found the dark wild roses
Hanging red at the river; and simmering
Frogs were singing, and over the river closes
Was savour of ice and of roses; and glimmering
Fear was abroad. We whispered: "No one

knows us.
Let it be as the snake disposes
Here in this simmering marsh."

KLOSTER SCHAEFTLARN

GLOIRE DE DIJON

WHEN she rises in the morning
I linger to watch her;
She spreads the bathcloth underneath the window
And the sunbeams catch her
Glistening white on the shoulders,
While down her sides the mellow
Golden shadow glows as
She stoops to the sponge, and her swung breasts
Sway like fullblown yellow
Gloire de Dijon roses.
She drips herself with water, and her shoulders
Glisten as silver, they crumple up
Like wet and falling roses, and I listen
For the sluicing of their raindishevelled petals.
In the window full of sunlight
Concentrates her golden shadow
Fold on fold, until it glows as
Mellow as the glory roses.

ICKING

ROSES ON THE BREAKFAST TABLE

JUST a few of the roses we gathered from the Isar
Are fallen, and their mauvered petals on the
cloth
Float like boats on a river, while other
Roses are ready to fall, reluctant and loth.
She laughs at me across the table, saying
I am beautiful. I look at the rumpled young roses
And suddenly realise, in them as in me,
How lovely the present is that this day discloses.

I AM LIKE A ROSE

I AM myself at last; now I achieve
My very self. I, with the wonder mellow,
Full of fine warmth, I issue forth in clear
And single me, perfected from my fellow.
Here I am all myself. No rosebush heaving
Its limpid sap to culmination, has brought
Itself more sheer and naked out of the green
In starkclear roses, than I to myself am brought.

ROSE OF ALL THE WORLD

I AM here myself; as though this heave of effort
At starting other life, fulfilled my own:
Roseleaves that whirl in colour round a core
Of seedspecks kindled lately and softly blown
By all the blood of the rosebush into being
Strange, that the urgent will in me, to set
My mouth on hers in kisses, and so softly
To bring together two strange sparks, beget
Another life from our lives, so should send
The innermost fire of my own dim soul out
spinning
And whirling in blossom of flame and being upon
me!
That my completion of manhood should be the
beginning
Another life from mine! For so it looks.
The seed is purpose, blossom accident.
The seed is all in all, the blossom lent
To crown the triumph of this new descent.
Is that it, woman? Does it strike you so?
The Great Breath blowing a tiny seed of fire
Fans out your petals for excess of flame,
Till all your being smokes with fine desire?
Or are we kindled, you and I, to be
One rose of wonderment upon the tree
Of perfect life, and is our possible seed
But the residuum of the ecstasy?
How will you have it?the rose is all in all,

Or the ripe rosefruits of the luscious fall?
The sharp begetting, or the child begot?
Our consummation matters, or does it not?
To me it seems the seed is just left over
From the red roseflowers' fiery transience;
Just orts and slarts; berries that smoulder in the
bush
Which burnt just now with marvellous immanence.
Blossom, my darling, blossom, be a rose
Of roses unhidden and purposeless; a rose
For rosiness only, without an ulterior motive;
For me it is more than enough if the flower un
close.

A YOUTH MOWING

THERE are four men mowing down by the Isar;
I can hear the swish of the scythestrokes, four
Sharp breaths taken: yea, and I
Am sorry for what's in store.
The first man out of the four that's mowing
Is mine, I claim him once and for all;
Though it's sorry I am, on his young feet, knowing
None of the trouble he's led to stall.
As he sees me bringing the dinner, he lifts
His head as proud as a deer that looks
Shoulderdeep out of the corn; and wipes
His scytheblade bright, unhooks
The scythestone and over the stubble to me.
Lad, thou hast gotten a child in me,
Laddie, a man thou'lt ha'e to be,
Yea, though I'm sorry for thee.

QUITE FORSAKEN

WHAT pain, to wake and miss you!
To wake with a tightened heart,
And mouth reaching forward to kiss you!
This then at last is the dawn, and the bell
Clanging at the farm! Such bewilderment
Comes with the sight of the room, I cannot tell.
It is raining. Down the halfobscure road

Four labourers pass with their scythes
Dejectedly; a huntsman goes by with his load:
A gun, and a bunched-up deer, its four little feet
Clustered dead. And this is the dawn
For which I wanted the night to retreat!

FORSAKEN AND FORLORN

THE house is silent, it is late at night, I am alone.
From the balcony
I can hear the Isar moan,
Can see the white
Rift of the river eerily, between the pines, under
a sky of stone.
Some fireflies drift through the middle air
Tinily.
I wonder where
Ends this darkness that annihilates me.

FIREFLIES IN THE CORN

She speaks.
Look at the little darlings in the corn!
The rye is taller than you, who think yourself
So high and mighty: look how the heads are
borne
Dark and proud on the sky, like a number of
knights
Passing with spears and pennants and manly scorn.
Knights indeed! much knight I know will ride
With his head held high serene against the sky!
Limping and following rather at my side
Moaning for me to love him! Oh darling rye
How I adore you for your simple pride!
And the dear, dear fireflies wafting in between
And over the swaying cornstalks, just above
All the dark feathered helmets, like little green
Stars come low and wandering here for love
Of these dark knights, shedding their delicate
sheen!
I thank you I do, you happy creatures, you dears

Riding the air, and carrying all the time
Your little lanterns behind you! Ah, it cheers
My soul to see you settling and trying to
climb

The cornstalks, tipping with fire the spears.
All over the dim corn's motion, against the blue
Dark sky of night, a wandering glitter, a
swarm

Of questing brilliant souls going out with their
true

Proud knights to battle! Sweet, how I warm
My poor, my perished soul with the sight of
you!

A DOE AT EVENING

As I went through the marshes a doe sprang out of the corn and flashed up the hillside
leaving her fawn.

On the skyline she moved round to watch, she pricked a fine black blotch on the sky.

I looked at her
and felt her watching;
I became a strange being.
Still, I had my right to be there with her,
Her nimble shadow trotting along the skyline, she put back her fine, levelbalanced head.
And I knew her.

Ah yes, being male, is not my head hardbalanced,
antlered?

Are not my haunches light?
Has she not fled on the same wind with me?
Does not my fear cover her fear?

IRSCHENHAUSEN

SONG OF A MAN WHO IS NOT LOVED

THE space of the world is immense, before me and
around me;
If I turn quickly, I am terrified, feeling space
surround me;

Like a man in a boat on very clear, deep water,
space frightens and confounds me.
I see myself isolated in the universe, and wonder
What effect I can have. My hands wave under
The heavens like specks of dust that are floating
asunder.
I hold myself up, and feel a big wind blowing
Me like a gadfly into the dusk, without my know
ing
Whither or why or even how I am going.
So much there is outside me, so infinitely
Small am I, what matter if minutely
I beat my way, to be lost immediately?
How shall I flatter myself that I can do
Anything in such immensity? I am too
Little to count in the wind that drifts me through.

GLASHÜTTE

SINNERS

THE big mountains sit still in the afternoon light
Shadows in their lap;
The bees roll round in the wildthyme with de
light.
We sitting here among the cranberries
So still in the gap
Of rock, distilling our memories
Are sinners! Strange! The bee that blunders
Against me goes off with a laugh.
A squirrel cocks his head on the fence, and
wonders
What about sin? For, it seems
The mountains have
No shadow of us on their snowy forehead of
dreams
As they ought to have. They rise above us
Dreaming
For ever. One even might think that they love us.
Little red cranberries cheek to cheek,
Two great dragonflies wrestling;

You, with your forehead nestling
Against me, and bright peak shining to peak
There's a lovesong for you! Ah, if only
There were no teeming
Swarms of mankind in the world, and we were
less lonely!

MAYRHOFEN

MISERY

OUT of this oubliette between the mountains five valleys go, five passes like gates; three
of them black in shadow, two of them bright with distant sunshine; and sunshine fills
one high valley bed, green grass shining, and little white houses like quartz crystals,
little, but distinct a way off.

Why don't I go?
Why do I crawl about this pot, this oubliette,
stupidly?
Why don't I go?
But where?
If I come to a pinewood, I can't say
Now I am arrived!
What are so many straight trees to me!

STERZING

SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN ITALY

THE man and the maid go side by side
With an interval of space between;
And his hands are awkward and want to hide,
She braves it out since she must be seen.
When some one passes he drops his head
Shading his face in his black felt hat,
While the hard girl hardens; nothing is said,
There is nothing to wonder or cavil at.
Alone on the open road again
With the mountain snows across the lake
Flushing the afternoon, they are uncomfortable,
The loneliness daunts them, their stiff throats

ache.
And he sighs with relief when she parts from him;
Her proud head held in its black silk scarf
Gone under the archway, home, he can join
The men that lounge in a group on the wharf.
His evening is a flame of wine
Among the eager, cordial men.
And she with her women hot and hard
Moves at her ease again.
She is marked, she is singled out
For the fire:
The brand is upon him, lookyou,
Of desire.
They are chosen, ah, they are fated
For the fight!
Champion her, all you women! Men, menfolk
Hold him your light!
Nourish her, train her, harden her
Women all!
Fold him, be good to him, cherish him
Men, ere he fall.
Women, another champion!
This, men, is yours!
Wreathe and enlap and anoint them
Behind separate doors

GARGNANO

WINTER DAWN

GREEN star Sirius
Dribbling over the lake;
The stars have gone so far on their road,
Yet we're awake!
Without a sound
The new young year comes in
And is halfway over the lake.
We must begin
Again. This love so full
Of hate has hurt us so,
We lie side by side

Moored but no,
Let me get up
And wash quite clean
Of this hate.
So green
The great star goes!
I am washed quite clean,
Quite clean of it all.
But e'en
So cold, so cold and clean
Now the hate is gone!
It is all no good,
I am chilled to the bone
Now the hate is gone;
There is nothing left;
I am pure like bone,
Of all feeling bereft.

A BAD BEGINNING

THE yellow sun steps over the mountaintop
And falters a few short steps across the lake
Are you awake?
See, glittering on the milkblue, morning lake
They are laying the golden racingtrack of the
sun;
The day has begun.
The sun is in my eyes, I must get up.
I want to go, there's a gold road blazes before
My breast which is so sore.
What? your throat is bruised, bruised with my
kisses?
Ah, but if I am cruel what then are you?
I am bruised right through.
What if I love you! This misery
Of your dissatisfaction and misprision
Stupefies me.
Ah yes, your open arms! Ah yes, ah yes,
You would take me to your breast! But no,
You should come to mine,
It were better so.

Here I amget up and come to me!
Not as a visitor either, nor a sweet
And winsome child of innocence; nor
As an insolent mistress telling my pulse's beat.
Come to me like a woman coming home
To the man who is her husband, all the rest
Subordinate to this, that he and she
Are joined together for ever, as is best.
Behind me on the lake I hear the steamer drum
ming
From Austria. There lies the world, and here
Am I. Which way are you coming?

WHY DOES SHE WEEP?

HUSH then why do you cry? It's you and me the same as before.

If you hear a rustle it's only a rabbit gone back to his hole in a bustle.

If something stirs in the branches overhead, it will be a squirrel moving uneasily,
disturbed by the stress of our loving.

Why should you cry then? Are you afraid of God in the dark?

I'm not afraid of God.
Let him come forth.
If he is hiding in the cover
let him come forth.

Now in the cool of the day it is we who walk in the trees and call to God "Where art
thou?" And it is he who hides.

Why do you cry?
My heart is bitter.
Let God come forth to justify
himself now.
Why do you cry?
Is it Wehmut, ist dir weh?
Weep then, yea
for the abomination of our old righteousness,
We have done wrong many times; but this time we begin to do right.

Weep then, weep for the abomination of our past righteousness. God will keep hidden,
he won't come forth.

GIORNO DEI MORTI

ALONG the avenue of cypresses
All in their scarlet cloaks, and surplices
Of linen go the chanting choristers,
The priests in gold and black, the villagers.
And all along the path to the cemetery
The round dark heads of men crowd silently,
And blackscarved faces of womenfolk, wistfully
Watch at the banner of death, and the mystery.
And at the foot of a grave a father stands
With sunken head, and forgotten, folded hands;
And at the foot of a grave a mother kneels
With pale shut face, nor either hears nor feels
The coming of the chanting choristers
Between the avenue of cypresses,
The silence of the many villagers,
The candleflames beside the surplices.

ALL SOULS

THEY are chanting now the service of All the Dead
And the village folk outside in the burying ground
Listen except those who strive with their dead,
Reaching out in anguish, yet unable quite to
touch them:

Those villagers isolated at the grave
Where the candles burn in the daylight, and the
painted wreaths
Are propped on end, there, where the mystery
starts.

The naked candles burn on every grave.
On your grave, in England, the weeds grow.
But I am your naked candle burning,
And that is not your grave, in England,
The world is your grave.

And my naked body standing on your grave
Upright towards heaven is burning off to you

Its flame of life, now and always, till the end.
It is my offering to you; every day is All Souls'
Day.

I forget you, have forgotten you.
I am busy only at my burning,
I am busy only at my life.
But my feet are on your grave, planted.
And when I lift my face, it is a flame that goes up
To the other world, where you are now.
But I am not concerned with you.
I have forgotten you.
I am a naked candle burning on your grave.

LADY WIFE

AH yes, I know you well, a sojourner
At the hearth;
I know right well the marriage ring you wear,
And what it's worth.
The angels came to Abraham, and they stayed
In his house awhile;
So you to mine, I imagine; yes, happily
Condescend to be vile.
I see you all the time, you birdblithe, lovely
Angel in disguise.
I see right well how I ought to be grateful,
Smitten with reverent surprise.
Listen, I have no use
For so rare a visit;
Mine is a common devil's
Requisite.
Rise up and go, I have no use for you
And your blithe, glad mien.
No angels here, for me no goddesses,
Nor any Queen.
Put ashes on your head, put sackcloth on
And learn to serve.
You have fed me with your sweetness, now I am sick,
As I deserve.
Queens, ladies, angels, women rare,
I have had enough.

Put sackcloth on, be crowned with powdery ash,
Be common stuff.
And serve now woman, serve, as a woman should,
Implicitly.
Since I must serve and struggle with the imminent
Mystery.
Serve then, I tell you, add your strength to mine
Take on this doom.
What are you by yourself, do you think, and what
The mere fruit of your womb?
What is the fruit of your womb then, you mother,
you queen,
When it falls to the ground?
Is it more than the apples of Sodom you scorn so,
the men
Who abound?
Bring forth the sons of your womb then, and put
them
Into the fire
Of Sodom that covers the earth; bring them forth
From the womb of your precious desire.
You woman most holy, you mother, you being
beyond
Question or diminution,
Add yourself up, and your seed, to the nought
Of your last solution.

BOTH SIDES OF THE MEDAL

AND because you love me
think you you do not hate me?
Ha, since you love me
to ecstasy
it follows you hate me to ecstasy.
Because when you hear me go down the road outside the house you must come to the
window to watch me go, do you think it is pure worship?

Because, when I sit in the room, here, in my own house, and you want to enlarge
yourself with this friend of mine, such a friend as he is, yet you cannot get beyond your
awareness of me you are held back by my being in the same world with you, do you
think it is bliss alone? sheer harmony?

No doubt if I were dead, you must reach into death after me, but would not your hate reach even more madly than your love? your impassioned, unfinished hate?

Since you have a passion for me, as I for you, does not that passion stand in your way like a Balaam's ass? and am I not Balaam's ass goldenmouthed occasionally? But mostly, do you not detest my bray?

Since you are confined in the orbit of me do you not loathe the confinement? Is not even the beauty and peace of an orbit an intolerable prison to you, as it is to everybody?

But we will learn to submit each of us to the balanced, eternal orbit wherein we circle on our fate in strange conjunction.

What is chaos, my love?
It is not freedom.
A disarray of falling stars coming to nought.

LOGGERHEADS

PLEASE yourself how you have it.
Take my words, and fling
Them down on the counter roundly;
See if they ring.
Sift my looks and expressions,
And see what proportion there is
Of sand in my doubtful sugar
Of verities.
Have a real stocktaking
Of my manly breast;
Find out if I'm sound or bankrupt,
Or a poor thing at best.
For I am quite indifferent
To your dubious state,
As to whether you've found a fortune
In me, or a fleabitten fate.
Make a good investigation
Of all that is there,
And then, if it's worth it, be grateful
If not then despair.
If despair is our portion

Then let us despair.
Let us make for the weeping willow.
I don't care.

DECEMBER NIGHT

TAKE off your cloak and your hat
And your shoes, and draw up at my hearth
Where never woman sat.
I have made the fire up bright;
Let us leave the rest in the dark
And sit by firelight.
The wine is warm in the hearth;
The flickers come and go.
I will warm your feet with kisses
Until they glow.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

THERE are only two things now,
The great black night scooped out
And this fireglow.
This fireglow, the core,
And we the two ripe pips
That are held in store.
Listen, the darkness rings
As it circulates round our fire.
Take off your things.
Your shoulders, your bruised throat
Your breasts, your nakedness!
This fiery coat!
As the darkness flickers and dips,
As the firelight falls and leaps
From your feet to your lips!

NEW YEAR'S NIGHT

Now you are mine, tonight at last I say it;
You're a dove I have bought for sacrifice,
And tonight I slay it.
Here in my arms my naked sacrifice!

Death, do you hear, in my arms I am bringing
My offering, bought at great price.
She's a silvery dove worth more than all I've got.
Now I offer her up to the ancient, inexorable God,
Who knows me not.
Look, she's a wonderful dove, without blemish or
spot!
I sacrifice all in her, my last of the world,
Pride, strength, all the lot.
All, all on the altar! And death swooping down
Like a falcon. 'Tis God has taken the victim;
I have won my renown.

VALENTINE'S NIGHT

You shadow and flame,
You interchange,
You death in the game!
Now I gather you up,
Now I put you back
Like a poppy in its cup.
And so, you are a maid
Again, my darling, but new,
Unafraid.
My love, my blossom, a child
Almost! The flower in the bud
Again, undefiled.
And yet, a woman, knowing
All, good, evil, both
In one blossom blowing.

BIRTH NIGHT

THIS fireglow is a red womb
In the night, where you're folded up
On your doom.
And the ugly, brutal years
Are dissolving out of you,
And the stagnant tears.
I the great vein that leads
From the night to the source of you,

Which the sweet blood feeds.
New phase in the germ of you;
New sunny streams of blood
Washing you through.
You are born again of me.
I, Adam, from the veins of me
The Eve that is to be.
What has been long ago
Grows dimmer, we both forget,
We no longer know.
You are lovely, your face is soft
Like a flower in bud
On a mountain croft.
This is Noël for me.
Tonight is a woman born
Of the man in me.

RABBIT SNARED IN THE NIGHT

WHY do you spurt and sprattle like that, bunny? Why should I want to throttle you,
bunny?

Yes, bunch yourself between my knees and lie still. Lie on me with a hot, plumb, live
weight, heavy as a stone, passive, yet hot, waiting.

What are you waiting for?

What are you waiting for?

What is the hot, plumb weight of your desire on
me?

You have a hot, unthinkable desire of me, bunny.

What is that spark glittering at me on the unutterable darkness of your eye, bunny? The
finest splinter of a spark that you throw off, straight on the tinder of my nerves!

It sets up a strange fire, a soft, most unwarrantable burning a balefire mounting,
mounting up in me.

'Tis not of me, bunny. It was you engendered it, with that fine, demoniacal spark you
jettied off your eye at me.

I did not want it, this furnace, this draughtmaddened fire which mounts up my arms
making them swell with turgid, ungovernable strength.

'Twas not I that wished it, that my fingers should turn into these flames avid and terrible
that they are at this moment.

It must have been your inbreathing, gaping desire that drew this red gush in me; I must
be reciprocating your vacuous, hideous passion.

It must be the want in you that has drawn this terrible draught of white fire up my veins
as up a chimney.

It must be you who desire this intermingling of the black and monstrous fingers of
Moloch in the bloodjets of your throat.

Come, you shall have your desire, since already I am implicated with you in your strange
lust.

PARADISE REENTERED

THROUGH the strait gate of passion,
Between the bickering fire
Where flames of fierce love tremble
On the body of fierce desire:
To the intoxication,
The mind, fused down like a bead,
Flees in its agitation
The flames' stiff speed:
At last to calm incandescence,
Burned clean by remorseless hate,
Now, at the day's renascence
We approach the gate.
Now, from the darkened spaces
Of fear, and of frightened faces,
Death, in our awful embraces
Approached and passed by;
We near the flameburnt porches
Where the brands of the angels, like torches
Whirl, in these perilous marches
Pausing to sigh;
We look back on the withering roses,
The stars, in their sundimmed closes,
Where 'twas given us to repose us

Sure on our sanctity;
Beautiful, candid lovers,
Burnt out of our earthy covers,
We might have nestled like plovers
In the fields of eternity.
There, sure in sinless being,
Allseen, and then allseeing,
In us life unto death agreeing,
We might have lain.
But we storm the angelguarded
Gates of the longdiscarded,
Garden, which God has hoarded
Against our pain.
The Lord of Hosts, and the Devil
Are left on Eternity's level
Field, and as victors we travel
To Eden home.
Back beyond good and evil
Return we. Eve dishevel
Your hair for the blissdrenched revel
On our primal loam.

SPRING MORNING

AH, through the open door
Is there an almond tree
Aflame with blossom!
Let us fight no more.
Among the pink and blue
Of the sky and the almond flowers
A sparrow flutters.
We have come through,
It is really spring! See,
When he thinks himself alone
How he bullies the flowers.
Ah, you and me
How happy we'll be! See him
He clouts the tufts of flowers
In his impudence.
But, did you dream
It would be so bitter? Never mind

It is finished, the spring is here.
And we're going to be summerhappy
And summerkind.
We have died, we have slain and been slain,
We are not our old selves any more.
I feel new and eager
To start again.
It is gorgeous to live and forget.
And to feel quite new.
See the bird in the flowers?he's making
A rare todo!
He thinks the whole blue sky
Is much less than the bit of blue egg
He's got in his nestwe'll be happy
You and I, I and you.
With nothing to fight any more
In each other, at least.
See, how gorgeous the world is
Outside the door!

SAN GAUDENZIO

WEDLOCK

I

COME, my little one, closer up against me, Creep right up, with your round head pushed
in my breast.

How I love all of you! Do you feel me wrap
you
Up with myself and my warmth, like a flame
round the wick?
And how I am not at all, except a flame that
mounts off you.
Where I touch you, I flame into being;but is it
me, or you?
That round head pushed in my chest, like a nut
in its socket,
And I the swift bracts that sheathe it: those
breasts, those thighs and knees,

Those shoulders so warm and smooth: I feel
that I
Am a sunlight upon them, that shines them into
being.
But how lovely to be you! Creep closer in, that
I am more.
I spread over you! How lovely, your round head,
your arms,
Your breasts, your knees and feet! I feel that we
Are a bonfire of oneness, me flame flung leaping
round you,
You the core of the fire, crept into me.

II

AND oh, my little one, you whom I enfold,
How quaveringly I depend on you, to keep me
alive,
Like a flame on a wick!
I, the man who enfolds you and holds you close,
How my soul cleaves to your bosom as I clasp you,
The very quick of my being!
Suppose you didn't want me! I should sink down
Like a light that has no sustenance
And sinks low.
Cherish me, my tiny one, cherish me who enfold
you.
Nourish me, and endue me, I am only of you,
I am your issue.
How full and big like a robust, happy flame
When I enfold you, and you creep into me,
And my life is fierce at its quick
Where it comes off you!

III

MY little one, my big one,
My bird, my brown sparrow in my breast.
My squirrel clutching in to me;
My pigeon, my little one, so warm
So close, breathing so still.

My little one, my big one,
I, who am so fierce and strong, enfolding you,
If you start away from my breast, and leave me,
How suddenly I shall go down into nothing
Like a flame that falls of a sudden.
And you will be before me, tall and towering,
And I shall be wavering uncertain
Like a sunken flame that grasps for support.

IV

BUT now I am full and strong and certain
With you there firm at the core of me
Keeping me.
How sure I feel, how warm and strong and happy
For the future! How sure the future is within me;
I am like a seed with a perfect flower enclosed.
I wonder what it will be,
What will come forth of us.
What flower, my love?
No matter, I am so happy,
I feel like a firm, rich, healthy root,
Rejoicing in what is to come.
How I depend on you utterly
My little one, my big one!
How everything that will be, will not be of me,
Nor of either of us,
But of both of us.

V

AND think, there will something come forth from
us.
We two, folded so small together,
There will something come forth from us.
Children, acts, utterance
Perhaps only happiness.
Perhaps only happiness will come forth from us.
Old sorrow, and new happiness.
Only that one newness.
But that is all I want.

And I am sure of that.
We are sure of that.

VI

AND yet all the while you are you, you are not me.
And I am I, I am never you.
How awfully distinct and far off from each other's
being we are!
Yet I am glad.
I am so glad there is always you beyond my scope,
Something that stands over,
Something I shall never be,
That I shall always wonder over, and wait for,
Look for like the breath of life as long as I live,
Still waiting for you, however old you are, and I
am,
I shall always wonder over you, and look for you.
And you will always be with me.
I shall never cease to be filled with newness,
Having you near me.

HISTORY

THE listless beauty of the hour
When snow fell on the apple trees
And the woodash gathered in the fire
And we faced our first miseries.
Then the sweeping sunshine of noon
When the mountains like chariot cars
Were ranked to blue battleland you and I
Counted our scars.
And then in a strange, grey hour
We lay mouth to mouth, with your face
Under mine like a star on the lake,
And I covered the earth, and all space.
The silent, drifting hours
Of morn after morn
And night drifting up to the night
Yet no pathway worn.
Your life, and mine, my love

Passing on and on, the hate
Fusing closer and closer with love
Till at length they mate.

THE CEARNE

SONG OF A MAN WHO HAS COME THROUGH

NOT I, not I, but the wind that blows through me!
A fine wind is blowing the new direction of Time.
If only I let it bear me, carry me, if only it carry
me!

If only I am sensitive, subtle, oh, delicate, a
winged gift!

If only, most lovely of all, I yield myself and am
borrowed

By the fine, fine wind that takes its course through
the chaos of the world

Like a fine, an exquisite chisel, a wedgeblade
inserted;

If only I am keen and hard like the sheer tip of a
wedge

Driven by invisible blows,

The rock will split, we shall come at the wonder,
we shall find the Hesperides.

Oh, for the wonder that bubbles into my soul,
I would be a good fountain, a good wellhead,
Would blur no whisper, spoil no expression.

What is the knocking?

What is the knocking at the door in the night?

It is somebody wants to do us harm.

No, no, it is the three strange angels.

Admit them, admit them.

ONE WOMAN TO ALL WOMEN

I DON'T care whether I am beautiful to you
You other women.

Nothing of me that you see is my own;

A man balances, bone unto bone

Balances, everything thrown

In the scale, you other women.
You may look and say to yourselves, I do
Not show like the rest.
My face may not please you, nor my stature; yet
if you knew
How happy I am, how my heart in the wind rings
true
Like a bell that is chiming, each stroke as a stroke
falls due,
You other women:
You would draw your mirror towards you, you
would wish
To be different.
There's the beauty you cannot see, myself and
him
Balanced in glorious equilibrium,
The swinging beauty of equilibrium,
You other women.
There's this other beauty, the way of the stars
You straggling women.
If you knew how I swerve in peace, in the equi
poise
With the man, if you knew how my flesh enjoys
The swinging bliss no shattering ever destroys
You other women:
You would envy me, you would think me wonder
ful
Beyond compare;
You would weep to be lapsing on such harmony
As carries me, you would wonder aloud that he
Who is so strange should correspond with me
Everywhere.
You see he is different, he is dangerous,
Without pity or love.
And yet how his separate being liberates me
And gives me peace! You cannot see
How the stars are moving in surety
Exquisite, high above.
We move without knowing, we sleep, and we
travel on,
You other women.

And this is beauty to me, to be lifted and gone
In a motion human inhuman, two and one
Encompassed, and many reduced to none,
You other women.

KENSINGTON

PEOPLE

THE great gold apples of night
Hang from the street's long bough
Dripping their light
On the faces that drift below,
On the faces that drift and blow
Down the nighttime, out of sight
In the wind's sad sough.
The ripeness of these apples of night
Distilling over me
Makes sickening the white
Ghostflux of faces that hie
Them endlessly, endlessly by
Without meaning or reason why
They ever should be.

STREET LAMPS

GOLD, with an innermost speck
Of silver, singing afloat
Beneath the night,
Like balls of thistledown
Wandering up and down
Over the whispering town
Seeking where to alight!
Slowly, above the street
Above the ebb of feet
Drifting in flight;
Still, in the purple distance
The gold of their strange persistence
As they cross and part and meet
And pass out of sight!
The seedball of the sun

Is broken at last, and done
Is the orb of day.
Now to the separate ends
Seed after dayseed wends
A separate way.
No sun will ever rise
Again on the wonted skies
In the midst of the spheres.
The globe of the day, overripe,
Is shattered at last beneath the stripe
Of the wind, and its oneness veers
Out myriadwise.
Seed after seed after seed
Drifts over the town, in its need
To sink and have done;
To settle at last in the dark,
To bury its weary spark
Where the end is begun.
Darkness, and depth of sleep,
Nothing to know or to weep
Where the seed sinks in
To the earth of the undernight
Where all is silent, quite
Still, and the darkneses steep
Out all the sin.

"SHE SAID AS WELL TO ME"

SHE said as well to me: "Why are you ashamed? That little bit of your chest that shows between the gap of your shirt, why cover it up? Why shouldn't your legs and your good strong thighs be rough and hairy? I'm glad they are like that. You are shy, you silly, you silly shy thing. Men are the shyest creatures, they never will come out of their covers. Like any snake slipping into its bed of dead leaves, you hurry into your clothes. And I love you so! Straight and clean and all of a piece is the body of a man, such an instrument, a spade, like a spear, or an oar, such a joy to me" So she laid her hands and pressed them down my sides, so that I began to wonder over myself, and what I was.

She said to me: "What an instrument, your body! single and perfectly distinct from everything else! What a tool in the hands of the Lord! Only God could have brought it to its shape. It feels as if his handgrasp, wearing you had polished you and hollowed you,

hollowed this groove in your sides, grasped you under the breasts and brought you to the very quick of your form, subtler than an old, softworn fiddlebow.

"When I was a child, I loved my father's riding
whip
that he used so often.
I loved to handle it, it seemed like a near part of
him.
So I did his pens, and the jasper seal on his desk.
Something seemed to surge through me when I
touched them.

"So it is with you, but here
The joy I feel!

God knows what I feel, but it is joy!
Look, you are clean and fine and singled out!
I admire you so, you are beautiful: this clean
sweep of your sides, this firmness, this hard
mould!

I would die rather than have it injured with one
scar.

I wish I could grip you like the fist of the Lord,
and have you"

So she said, and I wondered, feeling trammelled and hurt. It did not make me free.

Now I say to her: "No tool, no instrument, no God! Don't touch me and appreciate me. It is an infamy. You would think twice before you touched a weasel on a fence as it lifts its straight white throat. Your hand would not be so flig and easy. Nor the adder we saw asleep with her head on her shoulder, curled up in the sunshine like a princess; when she lifted her head in delicate, startled wonder you did not stretch forward to caress her though she looked rarely beautiful and a miracle as she glided delicately away, with such dignity. And the young bull in the field, with his wrinkled, sad face, you are afraid if he rises to his feet, though he is all wistful and pathetic, like a mono lith, arrested, static.

"Is there nothing in me to make you hesitate?
I tell you there is all these.
And why should you overlook them in me?

NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

I

AND so I cross into another world shyly and in homage linger for an invitation from this unknown that I would trespass on.

I am very glad, and all alone in the world, all alone, and very glad, in a new world where I am disembarked at last.

I could cry with joy, because I am in the new world,
just ventured in.
I could cry with joy, and quite freely, there is
nobody to know.
And whosoever the unknown people of this un
known world may be
they will never understand my weeping for joy
to be adventuring among them
because it will still be a gesture of the old world I
am making
which they will not understand, because it is
quite, quite foreign to them.

II

I WAS so weary of the world I was so sick of it everything was tainted with myself, skies, trees, flowers, birds, water, people, houses, streets, vehicles, machines, nations, armies, war, peacetalking, work, recreation, governing, anarchy, it was all tainted with myself, I knew it all to start with because it was all myself.

When I gathered flowers, I knew it was myself plucking my own flowering. When I went in a train, I knew it was myself travelling by my own invention. When I heard the cannon of the war, I listened with my own ears to my own destruction. When I saw the torn dead, I knew it was my own torn dead body. It was all me, I had done it all in my own flesh.

III

I SHALL never forget the maniacal horror of it all in the end when everything was me, I knew it all already, I anticipated it all in my soul because I was the author and the result

I was the God and the creation at once; creator, I looked at my creation; created, I looked at myself, the creator: it was a maniacal horror in the end.

I was a lover, I kissed the woman I loved, and God of horror, I was kissing also myself. I was a father and a begetter of children, and oh, oh horror, I was begetting and conceiving in my own body.

IV

AT last came death, sufficiency of death, and that at last relieved me, I died. I buried my beloved; it was good, I buried myself and was gone. War came, and every hand raised to murder; very good, very good, every hand raised to murder! Very good, very good, I am a murderer! It is good, I can murder and murder, and see them fall the mutilated, horrorstruck youths, a multitude one on another, and then in clusters together smashed, all oozing with blood, and burned in heaps going up in a foetid smoke to get rid of them the murdered bodies of youths and men in heaps and heaps and heaps and horrible reeking heaps till it is almost enough, till I am reduced perhaps; thousands and thousands of gaping, hideous foul dead that are youths and men and me being burned with oil, and consumed in corrupt thick smoke, that rolls and taints and blackens the sky, till at last it is dark, dark as night, or death, or hell and I am dead, and trodden to nought in the smokesodden tomb; dead and trodden to nought in the sour black earth of the tomb; dead and trodden to nought, trodden to nought.

V

GOD, but it is good to have died and been trodden out trodden to nought in sour, dead earth quite to nought absolutely to nothing nothing nothing nothing.

For when it is quite, quite nothing, then it is everything. When I am trodden quite out, quite, quite out every vestige gone, then I am here risen, and setting my foot on another world risen, accomplishing a resurrection risen, not born again, but risen, body the same as before, new beyond knowledge of newness, alive beyond life proud beyond inkling or furthest conception of pride living where life was never yet dreamed of, nor hinted at here, in the other world, still terrestrial myself, the same as before, yet unaccountably new.

VI

I, IN the sour black tomb, trodden to absolute death I put out my hand in the night, one night, and my hand touched that which was verily not me verily it was not me. Where I

had been was a sudden blaze a sudden flaring blaze! So I put my hand out further, a little further and I felt that which was not I, it verily was not I it was the unknown.

Ha, I was a blaze leaping up! I was a tiger bursting into sunlight. I was greedy, I was mad for the unknown. I, newrisen, resurrected, starved from the tomb starved from a life of devouring always myself now here was I, newawakened, with my hand stretching out and touching the unknown, the real unknown, the unknown unknown.

My God, but I can only say
I touch, I feel the unknown!
I am the first comer!
Cortes, Pizarro, Columbus, Cabot, they are nothing,
nothing!
I am the first comer!
I am the discoverer!
I have found the other world!
The unknown, the unknown!
I am thrown upon the shore.
I am covering myself with the sand.
I am filling my mouth with the earth.
I am burrowing my body into the soil.
The unknown, the new world!

VII

IT was the flank of my wife I touched with my hand, I clutched with my hand rising, newawakened from the tomb! It was the flank of my wife whom I married years ago at whose side I have lain for over a thousand nights and all that previous while, she was I, she was I; I touched her, it was I who touched and I who was touched.

Yet rising from the tomb, from the black oblivion stretching out my hand, my hand flung like a drowned man's hand on a rock, I touched her flank and knew I was carried by the current in death over to the new world, and was climbing out on the shore, risen, not to the old world, the old, changeless I, the old life, wakened not to the old knowledge but to a new earth, a new I, a new knowledge, a new world of time.

Ah no, I cannot tell you what it is, the new world I cannot tell you the mad, astounded rapture of its discovery. I shall be mad with delight before I have done, and whosoever comes after will find me in the new world a madman in rapture.

VIII

GREEN streams that flow from the innermost continent of the new world, what are they? Green and illumined and travelling for ever dissolved with the mystery of the innermost heart of the continent mystery beyond knowledge or endurance, so sumptuous out of the wellheads of the new world. The other, she too has strange green eyes! White sands and fruits unknown and perfumes that never can blow across the dark seas to our usual world! And land that beats with a pulse! And valleys that draw close in love! And strange ways where I fall into oblivion of uttermost living! Also she who is the other has strangemounded breasts and strange sheer slopes, and white levels.

Sightless and strong oblivion in utter life takes possession of me! The unknown, strong current of life supreme drowns me and sweeps me away and holds me down to the sources of mystery, in the depths, extinguishes there my risen resurrected life and kindles it further at the core of utter mystery.

GREATHAM

ELYSIUM

I HAVE found a place of loneliness
Lonelier than Lyonesse
Lovelier than Paradise;
Full of sweet stillness
That no noise can transgress
Never a lamp distress.
The full moon sank in state.
I saw her stand and wait
For her watchers to shut the gate.
Then I found myself in a wonderland
All of shadow and of bland
Silence hard to understand.
I waited therefore; then I knew
The presence of the flowers that grew
Noiseless, their wonder noiseless blew.
And flashing kingfishers that flew
In sightless beauty, and the few
Shadows the passing wildbeast threw.
And Eve approaching over the ground
Unheard and subtle, never a sound
To let me know that I was found.

Invisible the hands of Eve
Upon me travelling to reeve
Me from the matrix, to relieve
Me from the rest! Ah terribly
Between the body of life and me
Her hands slid in and set me free.
Ah, with a fearful, strange detection
She found the source of my subjection
To the All, and severed the connection.
Delivered helpless and amazed
From the womb of the All, I am waiting, dazed
For memory to be erased.
Then I shall know the Elysium
That lies outside the monstrous womb
Of time from out of which I come.

MANIFESTO

I

A WOMAN has given me strength and affluence.
Admitted!
All the rocking wheat of Canada, ripening now, has not so much of strength as the body
of one woman sweet in ear, nor so much to give though it feed nations.

Hunger is the very Satan.
The fear of hunger is Moloch, Belial, the horrible
God.
It is a fearful thing to be dominated by the fear of
hunger.
Not bread alone, not the belly nor the thirsty throat. I have never yet been smitten
through the belly, with the lack of bread, no, nor even milk and honey.

The fear of the want of these things seems to be
quite left out of me.
For so much, I thank the good generations of man
kind.

II

AND the sweet, constant, balanced heat of the suave sensitive body, the hunger for this has never seized me and terrified me. Here again, man has been good in his legacy to us, in these two primary instances.

III

THEN the dumb, aching, bitter, helpless need, the pining to be initiated, to have access to the knowledge that the great dead have opened up for us, to know, to satisfy the great and dominant hunger of the mind; man's sweetest harvest of the centuries, sweet, printed books, bright, glancing, exquisite corn of many a stubborn glebe in the upturned darkness; I thank mankind with passionate heart that I just escaped the hunger for these, that they were given when I needed them, because I am the son of man.

I have eaten, and drunk, and warmed and clothed my body, I have been taught the language of understanding, I have chosen among the bright and marvellous books, like any prince, such stores of the world's supply were open to me, in the wisdom and goodness of man. So far, so good. Wise, good provision that makes the heart swell with love!

IV

BUT then came another hunger very deep, and ravening; the very body's body crying out with a hunger more frightening, more profound than stomach or throat or even the mind; redder than death, more clamorous.

The hunger for the woman. Alas, it is so deep a Moloch, ruthless and strong, 'tis like the unutterable name of the dread Lord, not to be spoken aloud. Yet there it is, the hunger which comes upon us, which we must learn to satisfy with pure, real satisfaction; or perish, there is no alternative.

I thought it was woman, indiscriminate woman, mere female adjunct of what I was. Ah, that was torment hard enough and a thing to be afraid of, a threatening, torturing, phallic Moloch.

A woman fed that hunger in me at last. What many women cannot give, one woman can; so I have known it.

She stood before me like riches that were mine. Even then, in the dark, I was tortured, ravening, unfree, Ashamed, and shameful, and vicious. A man is so terrified of strong

hunger; and this terror is the root of all cruelty. She loved me, and stood before me, looking to me. How could I look, when I was mad? I looked sideways, furtively, being mad with voracious desire.

V

THIS comes right at last. When a man is rich, he loses at last the hunger fear. I lost at last the fierceness that fears it will starve. I could put my face at last between her breasts and know that they were given for ever that I should never starve never perish; I had eaten of the bread that satisfies and my body's body was appeased, there was peace and richness, fulfilment.

Let them praise desire who will, but only fulfilment will do, real fulfilment, nothing short. It is our ratification our heaven, as a matter of fact. Immortality, the heaven, is only a projection of this strange but actual fulfilment, here in the flesh.

So, another hunger was supplied, and for this I have to thank one woman, not mankind, for mankind would have prevented me; but one woman, and these are my redletter thanksgivings.

VI

To be, or not to be, is still the question.
This ache for being is the ultimate hunger.
And for myself, I can say "almost, almost, oh,
very nearly."

Yet something remains.
Something shall not always remain.
For the main already is fulfilment.
What remains in me, is to be known even as I
know.

I know her now: or perhaps, I know my own
limitation against her.

Plunging as I have done, over, over the brink I have dropped at last headlong into nought, plunging upon sheer hard extinction; I have come, as it were, not to know, died, as it were; ceased from knowing; surpassed myself. What can I say more, except that I know what it is to surpass myself?

It is a kind of death which is not death. It is going a little beyond the bounds. How can one speak, where there is a dumbness on one's mouth? I suppose, ultimately she is all beyond me, she is all notme, ultimately. It is that that one comes to. A curious agony,

and a relief, when I touch that which is not me in any sense, it wounds me to death with my own notbeing; definite, inviolable limitation, and something beyond, quite beyond, if you understand what that means. It is the major part of being, this having surpassed oneself, this having touched the edge of the beyond, and perished, yet not perished.

VII

I WANT her though, to take the same from me.

She touches me as if I were herself, her own.

She has not realized yet, that fearful thing, that

I am the other,

she thinks we are all of one piece.

It is painfully untrue.

I want her to touch me at last, ah, on the root and quick of my darkness and perish on me, as I have perished on her.

Then, we shall be two and distinct, we shall have each our separate being. And that will be pure existence, real liberty. Till then, we are confused, a mixture, unresolved, unextricated one from the other. It is in pure, unutterable resolvedness, distinction of being, that one is free, not in mixing, merging, not in similarity. When she has put her hand on my secret, darkest sources, the darkest outgoings, when it has struck home to her, like a death, "this is him!" she has no part in it, no part whatever, it is the terrible other, when she knows the fearful other flesh, ah, dark ness unfathomable and fearful, contiguous and concrete, when she is slain against me, and lies in a heap like one outside the house, when she passes away as I have passed away being pressed up against the other, then I shall be glad, I shall not be confused with her, I shall be cleared, distinct, single as if burnished in silver, having no adherence, no adhesion anywhere, one clear, burnished, isolated being, unique, and she also, pure, isolated, complete, two of us, unutterably distinguished, and in unutterable conjunction.

Then we shall be free, freer than angels, ah, perfect.

VIII

AFTER that, there will only remain that all men detach themselves and become unique, that we are all detached, moving in freedom more than the angels, conditioned only by our own pure single being, having no laws but the laws of our own being.

Every human being will then be like a flower, untrammelled. Every movement will be direct. Only to be will be such delight, we cover our faces when we think of it lest our faces betray us to some untimely fiend.

Every man himself, and therefore, a surpassing singleness of mankind. The blazing tiger will spring upon the deer, un dimmed, the hen will nestle over her chickens, we shall love, we shall hate, but it will be like music, sheer utterance, issuing straight out of the unknown, the lightning and the rainbow appearing in us unbidden, unchecked, like ambassadors.

We shall not look before and after.
We shall be, now.
We shall know in full.
We, the mystic NOW.

ZENNOR

AUTUMN RAIN

THE plane leaves fall black and wet on the lawn;
The cloud sheaves in heaven's fields set droop and are drawn
in falling seeds of rain; the seed of heaven on my face
falling I hear again like echoes even that softly pace
Heaven's muffled floor, the winds that tread out all the grain
of tears, the store harvested in the sheaves of pain
caught up aloft: the sheaves of dead men that are slain
now winnowed soft on the floor of heaven; manna invisible
of all the pain here to us given; finely divisible falling as rain.

FROST FLOWERS

IT is not long since, here among all these folk in London, I should have held myself of no account whatever, but should have stood aside and made them way thinking that they, perhaps, had more right than I for who was I?

Now I see them just the same, and watch them.

But of what account do I hold them?
Especially the young women. I look at them as they dart and flash before the shops, like
wagtails on the edge of a pool.

If I pass them close, or any man, like sharp, slim wagtails they flash a little aside
pretending to avoid us; yet all the time calculating.

They think that we adore them, would it
were true!
Probably they think all men adore them, howsoever they pass by.

What is it, that, from their faces fresh as spring, such fair, fresh, alert, firstflower faces,
like lavender crocuses, snowdrops, like Roman hyacinths, scyllas and yellowhaired
hellebore, jonquils, dim anemones, even the sulphur auriculas, flowers that come first
from the darkness, and feel cold to the touch, flowers scentless or pungent, ammoniacal
almost; what is it, that, from the faces of the fair young women comes like a pungent
scent, a vibration beneath that startles me, alarms me, stirs up a repulsion?

They are the issue of acrid winter, these first flower young women; their scent is
lacerating and repellant, it smells of burning snow, of hotache, of earth, winterpressed,
strangled in corruption; it is the scent of the fiery cold dregs of corruption, when
destruction soaks through the mortified, decomposing earth, and the last fires of
dissolution burn in the bosom of the ground.

They are the flowers of icevivid mortification, thawcold, icecorrupt blossoms, with a
loveliness I loathe; for what kind of icerotten, hotaching heart must they need to root in!

CRAVING FOR SPRING

I WISH it were spring in the world.

Let it be spring! Come, bubbling, surging tide of sap! Come, rush of creation! Come, life!
surge through this mass of mortification! Come, sweep away these exquisite, ghastly
first flowers, which are rather lastflowers! Come, thaw down their cool portentousness,
dissolve them: snowdrops, straight, deathveined exhalations of white and purple
crocuses, flowers of the penumbra, issue of corruption, nourished in mortification, jets
of exquisite finality; Come, spring, make havoc of them!

I trample on the snowdrops, it gives me pleasure to tread down the jonquils, to destroy
the chill Lent lilies; for I am sick of them, their faintbloodedness, slowblooded,
icyfleshed, portentous.

I want the fine, kindling winesap of spring, gold, and of inconceivably fine, quintessential brightness, rare almost as beams, yet overwhelmingly potent, strong like the greatest force of worldbalancing.

This is the same that picks up the harvest of wheat and rocks it, tons of grain, on the ripening wind; the same that dangles the globeshaped pleiads of fruit temptingly in midair, between a playful thumb and finger; oh, and suddenly, from out of nowhere, whirls the pearbloom, upon us, and apple and almond and apricot and quinceblossom, storms and cumulus clouds of all imaginable blossom about our bewildered faces, though we do not worship.

I wish it were spring cunningly blowing on the fallen sparks, odds and ends of the old, scattered fire, and kindling shapely little conflagrations curious longlegged foals, and wideeared calves, and naked sparrowbubs.

I wish that spring would start the thundering traffic of feet new feet on the earth, beating with impatience.

I wish it were spring, thundering delicate, tender spring. I wish these brittle, frostlovely flowers of pas sionate, mysterious corruption were not yet to come still more from the still flickering discontent.

Oh, in the spring, the bluebell bows him down for very exuberance, exulting with secret warm excess, bowed down with his inner magnificence!

Oh, yes, the gush of spring is strong enough to toss the globe of earth like a ball on a waterjet dancing sportfully; as you see a tiny celluloid ball tossing on a squint of water for men to shoot at, pennyatime, in a booth at a fair.

The gush of spring is strong enough to play with the globe of earth like a ball on a fountain; At the same time it opens the tiny hands of the hazel with such infinite patience.

The power of the rising, golden, allcreative sap could take the earth and heave it off among the stars, into the in visible; the same sets the throstle at sunset on a bough singing against the blackbird; comes out in the hesitating tremor of the primrose, and betrays its candour in the round white straw berry flower, is dignified in the foxglove, like a RedIndian brave.

Ah come, come quickly, spring! Come and lift us towards our culmination, we myriads;
we who have never flowered, like patient cactuses. Come and lift us to our end, to
blossom, bring us to our summer we who are winterweary in the winter of the world.
Come making the chaffinch nests hollow and cosy, come and soften the willow buds till
they are puffed and furred, then blow them over with gold. Come and cajole the gawky
colt'sfoot flowers.

Come quickly, and vindicate us against too much death. Come quickly, and stir the
rotten globe of the world from within, burst it with germination, with world anew. Come
now, to us, your adherents, who cannot flower from the ice. All the world gleams with
the lilies of Death the Unconquerable, but come, give us our turn. Enough of the virgins
and lilies, of passionate, suffocating perfume of corruption, no more narcissus perfume,
lily harlots, the blades of sensation piercing the flesh to blossom of death. Have done,
have done with this shuddering, delicious business of thrilling ruin in the flesh, of
pungent passion, of rare, deathedged ecstasy. Give us our turn, give us a chance, let our
hour strike, O soon, soon!

Let the darkness turn violet with rich dawn. Let the darkness be warmed, warmed
through to a ruddy violet, incipient purpling towards summer in the world of the heart
of man.

Are the violets already here!
Show me! I tremble so much to hear it, that even
now
on the threshold of spring, I fear I shall die.
Show me the violets that are out.

Oh, if it be true, and the living darkness of the blood of man is purpling with violets, if
the violets are coming out from under the rack of men, winterrotten and fallen we shall
have spring. Pray not to die on this Pisgah blossoming with violets. Pray to live through.

If you catch a whiff of violets from the darkness of the shadow of man it will be spring in
the world, it will be spring in the world of the living; wonderment organising itself,
heralding itself with the violets, stirring of new seasons.

Ah, do not let me die on the brink of such anticipation! Worse, let me not deceive
myself.