

ROSEMARY

*To the memory of " Hippolytus "*

*" There's rosemary, that's for remembrance ;  
Pray you, love, remember ! "—Hamlet.*

AMID the grandeur of my melancholy  
Lackeyed by spectres of my sombre past,  
I sit and smile at all the shapes of folly

That I evoke—save One, that looms at last  
Towering above these ten tremendous years.  
I see Him, sacred, single in the vast,

A Man of Sorrows, grey with useless tears ;  
A Man of Glory, with His aureole  
Radiant gossamer, a mist of spears

Storming the sky, His heart one crimson coal  
To burn all lesser gods, to gild the shame  
Of this my life's long infamy, the soul

(Abased for Him) in Him one flower of flame—  
Mine Aceldama one white lily-bloom  
Availing me above all wealth and fame

Unto the latter things, the destined doom,  
Ten years ago! how blind and black the abyss!  
How swept the springtide from the winter's womb

At the sharp summons of the swift strong kiss  
That rapt me up from the unfriendly earth  
Into the star-abodes of Salmacis,

Bringing the soul that slept to sudden birth.  
O frenzy of flame that swept across the world  
In orgiastic opulence of mirth,

And left me ever in His arms close curled,  
Never, O never! to shrink back again,  
But (through all ruinous time violently hurled)

Never to lose the stigma of that pain,  
The martyr's crown of shameful spines that  
weighs  
Even now upon these brows, that bear in vain

Fantastic myrtles and deceitful bays  
And vine-leaves withering even ere they clung.  
For in His love, His love beyond all praise,

I am still beautiful, still wise, still young.  
Nay, in the nuptial of that fruitful night  
Of fruitless joy unmeasured and unsung

There was no seed of sorrow. O my light,  
My love, my lord, accept the piteous plaint  
Of me, the little wayward wanton wight,

Whose wickedness was never fain to faint,  
Through these dull years still cherishing the spark  
Of Thy dear godhead in him—happy saint!

Who hath Thy light within him in the dark  
Ready to burst again to ruddier dawn  
An Thou shouldst travel in Thine holy bark

To drip Thy dews upon the thirsty lawn,  
And wake to song beatified the bird.  
But art Thou living, Lord, or far withdrawn

Into the shrines of solitude unstirred?

O Pan! have pity on the trembling faun!

In all Thy silence is there not one word?