

## Saladin

(A Translation of the Verses, in German,  
By Alfred Rehtz, in the *Agnostic Journal*  
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DARK visions once overcast  
The good green earth we tread,  
And the slaves of the clinging Past  
Wandered, blind and unled.

And every man his heart  
Must in that crowd enfold,  
Nor from the path depart  
His fathers trod of old.

And here and there a light  
'Twas given one to find,  
But the crowd knew but the night,  
And scorned him, being blind.

For men had dwelt in the dark  
For æons, and, fearing it bright,  
Hated the glittering spark,  
And mocked, in their hatred of light.

But torches were kindled, and they  
Who bore them persisted, and then  
The Temple of Folly soon lay  
In dust at the feet of men.

And before an army vast,  
A hero, with banner unfurled,  
Rises: with challenging blast  
He wakens the sleeping world.

From Faith's hard fetters be free!"  
How the dark, dark shadows are seen  
To flee from the light! And we  
Cry, "Lead us still on Saladin!"