

## The Story of Orpheus and Eurydice

### – Argument –

Orpheus the Thracian singer having lost his love  
by death, would yet not believe that she might  
.5 not be won back again, but sought her where none  
else has dared to seek, and there, as it were,  
compelled the Gods to grant him somewhat; which  
nevertheless his own folly cast away again, and  
he was left to live and die a lonely man.

1 Down in the south Laconian country-side  
About mount Tenarus, a wood spreads wide  
And toward the heart of it holm oak and yew  
Make it right hard for light to struggle through,  
5 Make twilight in the noonday. Ere ye reach  
This darkest place, the crisp leaves of the beach  
Make a sweet ceiling overhead; the oak  
And many-keyed ash good for shaft and yoke  
Grow sparser next above the thin hard grass;  
10 Then through a clear space doth a swift stream pass

0.1-0.9 The ... man] [Untitled, no argument *c3*; All letters in upper case *CW*]

0.1 Eurydice.] Eurydice *CW*; [The nymph Eurydice died of a serpent bite in the Laconian woods of Sparta in southern Greece. Her husband, Orpheus, was the son of Calliope, the muse of epic poetry, and King Oeagrus of Thracia. Thracia was the rugged land of rocks and mountains northeast of Greece, where primitive tribes of fierce barbarians resisted Greek civilization. As an Argonaut, Orpheus figures prominently in Morris's second book, *The Life and Death of Jason*.]

0.2 – Argument – ] ARGUMENT *CW*

0.6 seek, and there,] s<pea>\ee/k, and there, *c4*; SEEK, AND THERE *CW*

1 country-side] country side *c3*

2 Tenarus,] Trenarus *c3*

3 heart] <hard> heart *c4*

3 holm oak] holm-oak *CW*

3 and] & *c3*

4 Make ... light] And Juniper right hard *c3*

4 to] \to/ [pencilled insertion *c4*]

4 through,] through *c3*

5 noonday. Ere] noonday ere *c3*

6 place,] place *c3*

6 beach] beech *c3 CW*

7 overhead,] over-head *c3*

8 many-keyed ash] many keyed as<k>\h/ *c3*

8 and] & *c3*

9 sparser next] <thinner than> \sparser next/ *c3*

9 grass,] grass *c3*

A rod from whose bank the black wood uprears  
 Its mighty mass of dread: in long passed years  
 So was it at the least, as tells my tale;  
 And in those days no quarry might avail  
 15 To draw the hunter to the further shore  
 Of that small stream, though, folk said, golden ore  
 Rolled from the hills thick on its shallows lay  
 To wait, belike, the coming of the day  
 When Pan should die, and all the Gods should leave  
 20 The world all changed, as folk did then believe  
 Should one day come to pass. All men did dread  
 That wood exceeding much, and deemed the dead  
 Walked there at whiles; and that the Gods who least  
 Love mortal men, whose dreadful altar-feast  
 25 Needeth men's blood, at whiles would haunt the place

Yet one there was in such a fearful case  
 That hope from fear she never more might tell  
 Who een amidst the very place did dwell  
 And with the dead held converse; nor might men

- 11 black] <#>\b/lack c3  
 13 least, ... tale;] least as tells the tale c3  
 14 those .. quarry] that tide no fair prey c3  
 15 draw .. to the] <draw> \make/ the hunter <toward the> \gain the/ c3  
 16 small .. ore] fair stream though folk said golden o<er>\re/ c3  
 18 wait, belike,] wait I deem c3  
 19 should .. Gods] \should die/ and \all/ the <older> Gods <must die> c3  
 19 die,] die CW  
 20 the then] <Ch> \The/ changed world as then folk did c3  
 21 pass dread] pass – <# # now ye shall hear> \for folk did fear dread/ c3  
 22 That] <Who> <That wood exceedingly with a> That c3  
 22 much, ... the] much and <ever said> \deemed the/ c3  
 23 Walked] <That> Walked c3  
 23 whiles;] whiles c3  
 24 dreadful altar-feast] smoking altar feast c3  
 25 men's blood] their blood c3; [folio 2 c4]  
 26 fearful] [No new verse paragraph c3]; hop<l>\e/less c3  
 27 tell] <dw>\tjell c3  
 28 Who een] <A>\W/ho e'en c3; Who e'en CW  
 29 converse;] converse. c3

30     Number the years this fearful one bore then;  
        Or know if she would die for ever she,  
        As tells the tale, in all folks' memory  
        Had been the same to look on: so it was  
        That sometimes would her awful shadow pass  
 35     Long in the sunset, long in the low moon  
        Over the hay-field, and the maidens' tune  
        Would quaver and die out, and hand from hand  
        Would fall away and youth and damsel stand  
        Trembling and scarcely daring to draw breath,  
 40     As love grew faint before the coming death.  
        Yet since strange tales went of her wondrous lore,  
        Sometimes would folk that hard need pressed full sore  
        Cry from the stream's bank on her dreadful name,  
        They durst not name else; and the hag still came  
 45     At the seventh call, and, for such homely hire

30 years] days *c3*  
 30 one] crone *c3*  
 30 then;] then *c3*  
 31 die] die, *CW*  
 31 she,] she *c3*  
 32 tale,] tale *c3*  
 32 folks'] folks *c3*; folk's *CW*  
 33 on:] on; *c3*  
 34 sometimes] some times *c3*  
 34 awful] awful *c3*  
 35 sunset, ... low] sunset long in the <#> \low/ *c3*  
 36 hay-field,] hayfield *c3*  
 37 out,] out *c3*  
 38 Would fall away,] <T> \W/ould fall away *c3*  
 38 youth and] youth & *c3*  
 39 breath,] breath *c3*  
 40 As love grew] And love would *c3*  
 40 death.] death – *c3*  
 41 lore,] lore *c3*  
 42 hard] great *c3*  
 42 sore] sore, *CW*  
 43 stream's] streams *c3*  
 43 name,] name *c3*  
 44 else; ... still] else-and ever the hag *c3*  
 45 call, and,] call and *c3*

As wollen cloth, or knife fresh from the fire,  
Wheat-meal, or kid fit for the slaughtering,  
Fresh oil or honey, or such like other thing,  
Would speak in dreadful voice that scarcely seemed  
50 To come from her, and of ill dreams thrice dreamed  
Would tell the import; or teach fearful skill,  
How to gain love perforce, and how to kill  
Far-off unseen – in battle to prevail  
To heal the half-dead and make weak the hail.

55 That wood, and she who dwelt therein did curse  
The country-side, I deem: more wild and fierce  
More cruel and hard in love, more fell in hate  
Were those than other folk, content to wait  
With blind eyes in this changing doubtful home  
60 The bitter and the sweet that were to come

With none of these our story dealeth now  
But with a stranger who went to and fro

- 46 cloth,] cloth *c3*  
46 fire,] fire *c3*  
47 Wheat-meal,] Or meal *c3*  
47 slaughtering,] slaughtering *c3*  
48 Fresh] <On> Fresh *c3*  
48 honey,] honey *c3*  
48 thing,] thing *c3*  
51 import,] import, *c3*  
51 skill,] skill *c3*  
52 How ... to] <Ga> to gain mans love perforce to hurt & *c3*  
53 Far-off] Far off *c3*  
53 battle] <fight how> \battle/ *c4*  
53 prevail] prevail, *CW*  
54 half-dead] half dead *c3*  
54 hail.] hail *c3*; hale [pencilled insertion *c4*]; hale. *CW*  
55 wood,] [No new verse paragraph *c3*]; wood *c3* *CW*  
56 The ... deem:] [folio verso *c3*] That country side I deem *c3*  
56 fierce] fierce, *CW*  
57 love,] love *c3*; [folio 3 *c4*]  
58 folk, ... wait] folk that would await *c3*  
59 doubtful] tearful *c3*  
60 come] come – *c3*; come. *CW*  
61 With none of] But not with *c3*; [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
62 with ... went] telleth of a man who *c3*

Amid the dwellings that stood round about  
 The wood, and hearkened tales of dark and doubt  
 65 Men told thereof, silent himself, distraught  
 Amid the wondering men with bitter thought  
 With grief untold to these, which yet our tale  
 Shall tell of somewhat. In a Thracian vale  
 He dwelt erewhile, and Orpheus had to name,  
 70 And from a proud and mighty race he came  
 Of which few words folk tell, but know that he  
 Could deal with measured words and melody  
 As no man else, and all the people moved,  
 And in all matters was right well beloved:  
 75 Now this man wooed the maid Eurydice  
 And won her, and the days wore by till she  
 Was wedded to him, but ere the night  
 When all their longing into pure delight  
 Should melt away, as her fair feet did pass  
 80 Over the sweetest of the garden grass  
 And he beheld them, unbeheld there crept  
 A serpent through the flowers oer which she stepped  
 And stung her unshod foot in deadly wise  
 So that before the July moon might rise  
 85 To gleam upon the rose-strewn fragrant bed.  
 She, the desire of all the world, lay dead.  
 Ye who shall read what after followeth  
 May deem belike how this man first saw death;  
 Who none the less at last arose from pain  
 90 So great, that from its heart he needs must gain  
 Some little hope, if he should yet live on,  
 And so this grew until at last he won

63-64 Amid ... doubt] Went midst the dwelling \that were/ round about the wood

\The wood/ Harkening the tales of <evil and of good> \dark and doubt/ c3

65 silent himself, distraught] silent himself, <w> silent himself and worn c3; <and worn> \distraught/ c4

66-114 Amid ... vain] With unnamed grief till on a bitter morn

Upon the border of the stream he stood

With strained eyes fixed upon the fearful wood X c3 [These

three lines

correspond with 100-02. The next corresponding lines are 103-14 which follow line 136. (See note for line 137.)

66 Amid ... thought] \Amid the wondering men with bitter thought/ c4

67 grief untold] untold grief c4

68 vale] vale, CW

74 beloved:] beloved. CW

75 wooed] woo\e/d c4

76 wore by] <came round> \wore by/ c4

82 oer] o'er CW

87 Ye] [New verse paragraph CW]

88 belike] <indeed> \belike/ c4

91 Some] [folio 4 *c4*]

A bitter courage from his lone despair,  
That scarcely would believe in death or bear  
95 The burden of the changeless Gods while love  
Was yet alive the very death to move.  
What lore he gained, or in what what hidden place,  
But so it was that still he set his face  
Toward Tenarus, until at last outworn  
100 With grief and watching, on a bitter morn  
Upon the border of that stream he stood  
With strained eyes fixed upon the fearful wood.

Black was his raiment, and a withered wreath  
Of flowers that once had felt the summers breath  
105 Was round his head; an ivory harp, well strung  
With golden string, about his neck there hung:  
Lovely he was, well-wrought of every limb,  
But white and wasted was the face of him  
Beneath his golden hair, a thing to move  
110 The best of Goddesses to ruth and love,  
If she might dream a little while that fate,  
Stayed by the hand of love, an hour could wait  
To let her taste the fear and hope and pain,  
That still we strive to think not wholly vain.

115 Mid winter was it, dark the full stream ran  
Betwixt two shelves of ice; the sun grew wan  
Already, as the promise of the day  
Was marred by the long cloud-bars dull and grey  
That the light frosty wind drew from the north;  
120 From the brown brake-side peered a grey wolf forth  
And snarled behind him, e'en while overhead  
A raven wheeled, glad that the year was dead

96 move.] move, *CW*

97 what hidden place,] hidden place. *CW*

104 summers] summer's *CW*

107 limb,] limb; *CW*

110 ruth] ruth<s> *c4*

112 hour] <#> hour *c4*

115 it,] it *c3*

116 ice; the sun] ice, the <sky> \sun/ *c3*

116 Betwixt] \be/Twixt *c3*

117 Already,] Already *c3*

118 marred] spoilt *c3*

118 cloud-bars dull and] cloud bars dull & *c3*

119 That ... north;] The light cold wind bore up from the north *c3*

120 brake-side ... a] brake side peered the *c3*

121 And ... overhead] Behind the man and snarled & over head *c3*

122 wheeled,] wheeled *c3*

To make him rich. Then Orpheus seemed to wake  
As from a dream, and looked around, & spake  
125 “Long hast thou been a dying, O bitter year,  
Whose summer-tide such woe to me did bear!

And dieth not time withal, though still I strive  
A little, and a little hope doth live.  
But I – I shall not die, I shall not die  
130 E’en when this hope is utterly gone by,  
But, living, unconsumed by misery still,  
Into a timeless changeless sea of ill,  
Made but to waste my wretched soul shall float,  
As from a dark stream’s mouth an unmanned boat  
135 Floats into a windless sea fulfilled of death.”

123 rich. Then Orpheus] rich – now the man *c3*  
124 dream,] dream *c3*; [folio 5 *c4*]  
124 around, & spake] around and spake *c3*;  
124 around and spake: *CW*  
125 “Long] Long *c3*  
125 a dying O] a dying O *c3*; a-dying O *CW*  
125 year,] year *c3*  
126 summer-tide such woe] soft springtide such woes *c3*  
126 bear!] bear – *c3*  
127 And .. withal] <O may time die> And <is> \doth/ not time <dead> \die/ now *c3*; And <will> \dieth/  
not time <die too> \withal/, *c4*; [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
128 little,] little *c3*  
128 live.] live – *c3*  
129 But I – ] And I, *c3*  
129 die,] die *c3*  
130 E’en] Een *c3*  
130 utterly gone by,] dead but living (float *c3*  
131-33 But ... float,] [No corresponding lines *c3*]  
134 from ... stream’s] \from the sea r/ from a \dark streams/ rivers *c3*  
135 sea ... death.”] sea) fullfulled of death. *c3*; ful<|> filled of death.” *c4*  
136 He] \_\_\_\_\_ still  
Into a timeless changeless waste of ill  
Made but to hate my wretched soul shall  
He *c3*

He clenched his hands, and drew a weary breath,  
And o'er the grass that through the thin dry snow  
Struggled aloft, he went with footsteps slow  
Until he came to the stream's shallowest place,  
140 Then, with his sick hope quivering in his face  
Crashed through the ice and splashed the ripple through  
And gained the bank, and toward the dark wood drew,

136 hands,] hands *c3*

136 breath, ] breath *c3*

137 And o'er] X (Black was his raiment and a withered wreath  
Of flowers that once had known the summers breath  
Was round his head, an ivory harp well strung  
With golden strings about his neck there hung  
Lovely the man was most well wrought of limb  
But white and wasted was the face of him

Beneath his golden hair a thing to move  
A very goddess with sweet ruth & love  
If she might dream a \little/ while that fate  
Stayed by the hand of love an hour <might> \could/ wait  
To let her taste the hope & fear and pain  
That \men on earth must think not/ we must strive to think not wholly vain)  
<w> And oer *c3*

137 grass ... snow] <herba> grass that with the thin dry *c3*

137 through] <with> \through/ *c4*

138 aloft,] aloft *c3*

139 streams] stream's *c3*

139 place,] place *c3*

140 Then, with his] And with the *c3*; Then with his *CW*

140 face] face, *CW*

141 and splashed] & <icy ripple> \splashed/ *c3*

142 bank,] <#>\b/ank *c3*

142 drew,] drew *c3*

That none in memory of aught alive  
 Had dared to seek, with death and hell to strive.  
 145 But he for nought that might abide him quailed,  
 E'en when the winter day's sick sunlight failed  
 Beneath the black boughs, and the twilight dim  
 Betwixt the tree-trunks needs must seem to him  
 Gained not from day but from some strange place shed  
 150 Where day and night need not the changeless dead.  
 Nought living in that wood his eyes might see,  
 Scarce might the snow betwixt thick tree & tree  
 Reach the sparse herbage, or the hard brown ground:  
 Though the wind rose without now, no real sound  
 155 But of his hasty feet therein he heard;  
 Yet by the silence nowise was he feared,

- 143 aught] [folio 2 recto c3] man c3  
 144 seek,] seek c3  
 144 and] & c3  
 144 strive.] strive – c3  
 145 quailed,] quailed c3  
 146 E'en] Een c3  
 146 winter day's sick] winter's day's half c3  
 146 Beneath] <Neath the black roof of yew trees> Beneath c3  
 147 boughs, and] boughs & c3  
 148 Betwixt ... to] Amid the dim\yew/ trunks seemed unto c3  
 149 Gained day] Not gained from day c3; Gained not from day, CW  
 149 strange place shed] kingdom dead c3  
 150 Where ... dead] That \k/new no-day now might there over shed c3  
 150 Where ... need] <That needs no night or day> Where day and night need/ c4  
 151 that] the c3  
 151 see,] see c3  
 152 Scarce might] <Scarcely> \how/ c3  
 152 &] and c3 CW  
 153 Reach ... ground: ] <Nor> Reached the <hard> sparse herbage, <never any sound> \or the  
 grown hard ground/ c3  
 154 now,] now c3  
 155 heard;] heard. c3  
 156 Yet ... feared,] <Yet had his moody heart been lightly feared>  
 <But that that withal had he been lightly> feared  
 <Had been enow> Yet by the silence nowise he c3

For, wrapp'd about in grief and strong intent,  
Scarcely he saw the way on which he went  
Or took note of the trees, as one by one  
160 From out the gloom his eyes were fixed upon  
They grew, then met him, then were left behind

Thus darkling through the changeless woodways blind  
Long time he went, till suddenly a light  
Red, dusky, flickering, through the silent night  
165 Of the moveless boughs sent a long wavering way  
Changing to black and red the tree-trunks grey.  
No cry came from his lips, nor did his feet  
Falter one whit, but swifelier moved to meet  
The heart of the strange light, until at last  
170 Into a treeless open space he passed,  
Though what was over head he might not say,

157 For,] for *c3*; [folio 6 *c4*]

157 in grief and] by grief & *c3*

157 intent,] intent *c3* [Three initial R's drawn in margin *c3*]

158 Scarcely ... which] Scarce might he see the way whereon *c3*

159 took ... trees,] note the changing trees *c3*

160 From out] <As> from \out/ *c3*

161 grew,] grew *c3*

161 him,] him *c3*

161 behind,] behind *c3*

162 Thus] [No new verse paragraph *c4*]

163 went, till] went *c3*

163 light] light, *CW*

164 Red, ... silent] Red dusky flickering \through/ <showed all ward> the cold grey *c3*

165 the] \the/ *c3*

165 long wavering way] <strange path & wide> \long wavering way/ *c3*

165 way] way, *CW*

166 and] & *c3*

166 tree-trunks grey] tree-trunks grey *c3*; tree-trunks grey. *CW*

167 lips,] lips *c3*

168 whit, but swifelier] whit but swifter *c3*

169 light, until at] light till at the *c3*

170 open passed,] space of wood he passed *c3*

171 what say,] <dark overhead it was nor> \what was over head he/ could <he> \not/ say *c3*

171 overhead] over head *c4*

Sky or what else; for surely the world's day  
 Had scarce waned yet, yea and were it night  
 With neither moon or star the sky to light  
 175 Scarce had this wide-spread twilight glimmered there  
 To mingle with the red blaze that did flare  
 From out the windows of a house of stone,  
 White and unstained as is a wind-bleached bone  
 In a dry land: he looked down toward his feet,  
 180 And might not name the flowers that they did meet  
 Tough blossoms certainly that glare did light  
 Not the thin grey grass and snow dusty-white  
 Of the cold world without; whereby he knew  
 That some strange land he thus had journeyed to,  
 185 But felt no fear, nay rather hope, that strange  
 Should all be round him, and the changeless change  
 Of seasons, each slaying each, and night and day  
 Waxing and waning thus were passed away

172 else;] else, *c3*  
 172 world's] worlds *c3*  
 173 yet, night] yet though dusk had all been there *c3*  
 174-76 With flare] But for the red light that he now saw glare *c3*; [Line drawn across folio *c3*]  
 174 With] <And> \With/ *c4*  
 175 there] <round> \there/ *c4*  
 177 stone,] stone *c3*  
 179 land: he] land he *c3*; land. He *CW*  
 179 feet,] feet *c3 CW*  
 180 might ... they] And <scarcely> know \no what/ what flowers they *c3*  
 180 meet] meet, *CW*  
 182 thin grey grass] sparse herbage *c3*  
 182 dusty-white] dusty white *c3*  
 183 cold ... whereby] world without so that *c3*  
 184 some ... thus] a most dread place he *c3*  
 184 to,] to *c3*  
 185 But] Yet *c3*  
 185 fear, nay] fear but *c3*  
 185 hope,] hope  
 186 Should ... and] Was all about him that *c3*  
 186 him,] him; *CW*  
 187 seasons,] seasons  
 187 each, ... night and] each & night & *c3*  
 188 Waxing] Wax<ed>\ing/ *c4*  
 188 and waning thus] & waning clear *c3*  
 188 away] away. *CW*

So now unto the doorway of that hall  
 190 Swiftly he passed, and as his feet did fall  
 Upon its threshold, wild new hopes there came  
 Across his heart. He entered; a great flame  
 Shot up from floor to ceiling of that place  
 Reddening his raiment and his wild white face  
 195 And lighting every nook and cranny there.  
 A mighty had he had accounted fair  
 Mid the world's sunlight with the boughs of trees

Brushing its windows in the fitful breeze;  
 But here, mid utter silence of all else  
 200 Save the flame's roar, mid horror such as dwells  
 Amidst a city where all folk have died,

- 189 doorway of that] door of that strange *c3*; door\way/ of that <strange> *c4* [folio 7 *c4*]  
 190 passed, and as] passed and when *c3*  
 191 its ... hopes] the threshold might thoughts *c3*  
 192 heart. He entered;] heart – he entered – *c3*  
 193 Shot ... that] Ran up from fl<l>oor to roof <a>\o/f that strange *c3*  
 194 and] & *c3*  
 195 and] & *c3*  
 195 there.] there *c3*  
 196 had he ... fair] hall he might have reckoned fair *c3*; [hall] had he accounted fair *CW*  
 197 Mid] Amid *c3* [folio 2 verso *c3*]  
 197 sunlight] sunlight, *CW*  
 197 with ... trees] and the doubtful breeze *c3*  
 198 Brushing ... breeze; ] The windows \brushed/ <looked through> by <the> boughs of flickering  
 trees *c3*  
 199 here,] here *c3*  
 200 Save roar,] But the flames roar *c3*  
 201 Amidst where] Upon a city w\h/ere *c3*  
 201 died,] died *c3*

Dreadful it seemed, and even he did bide  
 Doubtful a little while, with eyes all dazed  
 As through the smokeless swirling flame he gazed;  
 205 All was of stone there, flawless smooth, and white,  
 Pavement and walls and roof, but for the light  
 That reddened it: betwixt the fire and door  
 A laver was there sunken in the floor  
 Whose moveless water mirrored the straight flame;  
 210 A brazen bowl there floated in the same,  
 And by the pillar that rose up anigh  
 A black-fleeced ram lay gasping piteously  
 The red blood running from his breast apace.

Now sounded a shrill voice adown the place;  
 215 "Draw nigher Orpheus, tell thy tale to me  
 Of the glad world unmeet for me and thee

202 Dreadful and] Was nought but dreadful *c3*  
 203 Doubtful dazed] <With> a little while <& dazzled by the blaze> \doubtful with eyes all dazed/  
*c3*  
 204 swirling ... gazed;] flame a <wh> round he gazed *c3*  
 205 All] A<n>\ll/ *c3*  
 205 there, ... white,] there <white withel a> flawless smooth white *c3*  
 205 flawless smooth] flawless-smooth *CW*  
 206 Pavement ... roof,] <Pavement & walls and roof> Pavement & walls & roof *c3*  
 207 it: betwixt] it, twixt *c3*  
 207 and] & *c3*  
 209 Whose] <That mirror> W<a>\ho/s *c3*  
 209 flame;] flame *c3*  
 210 same,] same *c3*  
 211 by] to *c3*; <to>\by/ *c4*  
 212 black-fleeced] black- <feel> fleeced *c3*  
 212 piteously] piteously, *CW*  
 213 his breast apace.] <the> his throat apace *c3*  
 214 Now] Then *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
 214 place;] place *c3*; place: *CW*  
 215 "Draw ... tale] Draw nigher Orpheus \to/ tell tales *c3*  
 215 nigher] nigher, *CW*  
 216 me and thee] thee & me *c3*

That hast a mind the heavens and earth to move.  
Tales wherein hope is told of, and sweet love,  
Where each loves each in sweet and equal wise  
220 Beneath the just Gods' happy unseen eyes."

Then such a laughter on his ears did fall  
As made him deem that in that dreadful hall  
His sin and his despair did him abide,  
A thing made manifest, that ere that tide  
225 Dimly he knew, a dream: and yet his feet  
How drew him on the worst of all to meet.  
But as betwixt the pillars tall he passed  
Lo, nor their whiteness, nor his blackness cast  
A shadow on the pavement, in despite  
230 Of that great swirling shaft of ruddy light.  
But now all fear that his great heart drew round  
At the first hearing of that dreadful sound

217 hast] hath *c3*; ha <th>\st/ *c4*  
217 and] & *c3*  
217 move:] move *c3*  
218 Tales] <Su> Tales *c3*  
218 of, and sweet love,] of & sweet love *c3*  
219-20 Where ... eyes. "[No corresponding lines *c3*]  
221 Then] [No new verse paragraph *c3*] [folio 8 *c4*]  
223 sin and his] own sin & *c3*  
223 abide,] abide *c3*  
224 manifest,] manifest *c3*  
225 Dimly ... and] He had not known nor dreamed of *c3*  
226 How ... on] Drew him along *c3*  
226 meet.] meet *c3*  
227 But ... tall] And as betwixt the pillars white *c3*  
228 Lo, ... cast] Neither his blackness nor their whiteness *c3*  
229 pavement, in] floor in all *c3*  
230 Of] <And> Of *c3*  
230 shaft ... light.] \_\_\_\_\_ of ruddy light – *c3*  
231-32 But sound] [No corresponding lines *c3*]

Died clean away, as onward he did wend  
And saw one sitting at the hall's far end  
235 On a great seat of stone, a woman, clad  
In white wool raiment: in her hand she had  
A rock wherefrom she span a coal-black thread;  
Her face was as the face of one long dead  
But for her glittering eyes, and white and long  
240 Hung down her hair her raiment's folds among.

“All hail, Worlds Hope, Worlds Love!” she cried we twain  
Of such a meeting long have been most fain  
Yea though thou knowest me not, yet oft indeed  
Thou calledst on me in thy bitter need,  
245 To make thy face as brass thine heart as stone –  
O good it is we twain are met alone!”

Now as he drew close, therewithal it seemed  
As though this too with all these things were dreamed,  
And had no import: as he stood there, still

233 Died ... he] And now as he adown the hall *c3*  
233 Died] <He thrust>\Died/ *c4*  
233 away,] away *CW*  
234 And] He *c3*  
234 at ... far] on the further *c3*  
236 stone, a woman,] \s/tone a woman *c3*  
236 raiment:] raiment *c3*  
237 span ... thread:] sp<#>n a coal-black thread *c3*  
239 eyes,] eyes *c3*  
239 and] & *c3*  
240 her raiments] <the> her raiments *c3*; her raiment's *CW*  
241 “All ... we] [No new verse paragraph *c3*] All hail worlds hope worlds love she cried we *c3*; “All  
hail, World's Hope, World's Love!” she cried, “we *CW*  
242 fain] fain – *c3*; fain: *CW*  
243-46 Yea ... alone!”] [No corresponding lines *c3*]  
243 Yea] Yea, *CW*  
245 brass] brass, *CW*  
247 Now ... withal] [No new verse paragraph *c3*] He had drawn close already now *c3*  
248 with ... dreamed,] like other things was dreamed *c3*  
249 had no import:] mattered nought yea *c3*  
249 there,] there *c3*

250 One thought one hope his wasted heart did fill,  
 That in such wise from out his soul did flame  
 That oer his cheeks a ruddy flush there carne  
 Mocked from her corpse-like lips by laughter low  
 As if his thoughts she nowise failed to know.  
 255 Then with a proud and steady gaze he cried  
 "Mother, all hail! for though the world be wide,  
 Thus have we met; I who desire, and thou  
 Who hidden thing and life's end well can show!"  
  
 "Mother of nought at all," she cried, "am I;  
 260 The love and hope that I saw wane and die,  
 I brought it not to birth, but in a dream  
 Was it made mine: the thought that once did seem

250 thought] thought, *CW*  
 250 heart] <life>\heart/ *c4*  
 250 fill,] fill *c3*  
 251 from out] now from *c3*  
 252 oer his cheeks] oer his face *c3*; o'er his cheeks *CW*  
 253 Mocked ... corpse-like] From from her corpse like *c3*; [folio 9 *c4*]  
 254 if] [folio 3 recto *c3*] though *c3*  
 254 know.] know *c3*  
 255 Then] But *c3*  
 255 and steady gaze] & steady look *c3*  
 255 cried] cried: *CW*  
 256 "Mother, all hail!] <Yea> <h>\a//l hail mother *c3*  
 256 wide,] wide *c3*  
 257 met;] met *c3*  
 257 desire, and] desire & *c3*  
 258 life's] lifes *c3*  
 258 show!"] show *c3*  
 259 at ... I;] \at/ she cried am I *c3*  
 260 and die,] & die *c3*  
 261 birth,] birth *c3*  
 262 made mine:] <brought to me> \made mine/ *c3*

Born from my very heart – who knows, who knows,  
 Whence it was born, amid what fearful throes  
 265 Of Gods, to mock me as alone I sit,  
 Mazed twixt the rising and the end if it.  
 Fool of the world, thou hearkenest not to me,  
 Deeming thy love a part of thee to be,  
 Knowing it mighty, thinking that thou too  
 270 Art grown a God all marvellous things to do –  
 – Assay it, O thou singer, who didst move  
 The little hearts of men ere thou didst love,  
 And canst not move them more, O hot-hearted fool,  
 Who then as now wert but the helpless tool  
 275 Of that undying worldwide melody  
 Whose sweet sound mocks the vain hearts made to die.  
 – Thou hearkenest not – how then shall I avail  
 Thy vain desire? Speak, tell me of they tale!”

280 Indeed with wandering eyes he turned to her,  
 As though no meaning all her words did bear,  
 But when she made an end of all, he said;

263 very heart – ] very heart *c3*; \very/heart – *c4*  
 263 knows, who knows,] knows who knows *c3*  
 264 Whence] Where *c3*  
 264 born,] born *c3*  
 265 Gods,] \#####/ Gods *c3*  
 265 as alone I sit,] as I sit *c3*  
 266 end of it.] fall of it *c3*  
 267 to me,] to *c3*  
 267 world,] world *c3*  
 268 be,] be *c3*  
 269 mighty, thinking] mighty thinkest *c3*  
 271 – Assay it,] Assay it *c3*; Assay it, *CW*  
 271 singer,] singer *c3*  
 272 little ... love,] hearts of men ore ere thou thoughtst of love *c3*  
 273 not] thou *c3*  
 273 more, ... fool,] more now hot heart fool *c3*  
 274 as now wert] & now w<#>ert *c3*  
 276 Whose sweet sound] <that> Whose sweet *c3*  
 276 die.] die *c3*  
 277 – Thou hearkenest not – ] Thou hearkenest not *c3*  
 278 desire? Speak,] desire speak *c3*  
 278 tale!”] tale – *c3*  
 278 of] all *c3*  
 279 wandering] [No new verse paragraph *c3*] wondering *c3*  
 279 turned to her,] gazed at her *c3*  
 280 words did bear,] speech did bear *c3*  
 281 when] <she> when *c4*  
 281 made ... all,] came unto an end *c3*  
 281 said,] said *c3*; said: *CW*



Nay I need pray thee not, I know thy thought  
As thou know'st mine; I am not come for nought,  
Alone of all men, to this fearful place.”

Silent awhile upon him did she gaze,  
300 Then cried: “Nay nay thou com'st not here to strive  
Save with the Gods who kill and make alive  
And know not why – so even let it be,  
And as I may will I give help to thee;  
I, who perchance am even one of these,  
305 And shall not die to gain a little ease.  
– Yet hearken now, thou as thou standest there,  
So loving and so lovesome and so fair  
All music on thy lips, and in thine heart –  
– More than a God in this one thing thou art,

296 thee not,] no ore *c3*  
297 thou know'st mine;] thou<gh> knowst *c3*  
297 nought,] nought *c3*  
298 all men, to] men unto *c3*  
298 place.”] place *c3*  
299 she gaze,] [No new verse paragraph *c3*] gaze *c3*  
300 Then ... nay] She cried nay nay *c3*; Then cried: “Nay nay, *CW*  
301 kill] slay *c3*  
302 so] So *c3*  
302 be,] be *c3*  
303 thee; ] [folio 3 verso *c3*] thee *c3*  
304 I,] I *CW*  
304 am even] myself am *c3*  
304 these,] these *CW*  
305 to gain] nor find *c3*  
305 ease.] peace *c3*  
306 – Yet hearken now,] Yet hearken now *c3*  
306 there,] there *c3*  
307 and] & *c3*  
307 and so fair] & so fair *c3*; and so fair, *CW*  
308 on ... heart – ] <in> \on/ thy lips and <o>\i/n thine heart *c3*  
308 heart – ] heart <,> \- / *c4*  
309 – More] More *c3 CW*  
309 in] <th> in *c4*  
309 in ... art,] thou art in this one part *c3*

310 And if love ruled the world thou too shouldst rule.  
 But so it is not; love is but the tool  
 They use to make the morning bright and fair;  
 Even by the silence of they dull despair  
 The brown breast of the thoughtless nightingale  
 315 Is filled with longings vague to tell thy tale.  
 Through the cold patience of thy grief forgot,  
 A hundred thousand springs wax bright & hot,  
 A hundred thousand summers bear the rose;  
 And with the fruitful rest thine heart did lose  
 320 A hundred thousand autumns grow o'ersweet  
 Before the star-crowned winters cold white feet;  
 While thou thyself, a waif cast forth, shalt fare  
 Alone, unloved thou knowest not why or where.  
 Come then today and strive and strive and fail,  
 325 Beat down and conquered yet of more avail,  
 Sweeter and fairer to the world than though

310 rule.] rule *c3*  
 311 not;] not *c3*  
 312 and fair;] & fair *c3*; and fair. *CW*  
 313 Even] And <through> *c3*  
 314 breast] brest *c3*  
 315 longings ... tale.] longing to tell all thy tale *c3*  
 315 tale.] tale: *CW*  
 316 Through] By *c3*  
 317 & hot,] & hot *c3*; and hot, *CW*  
 318 bear] <r>b/ear *c3* [folio 11 *c4*]  
 319 thine] thy *c3*  
 320 o'ersweet] o'er sweet *c3*  
 321 star-crowned winters] star crowned winders *c3*; star-crowned winter's *CW*  
 321 feet;] feet *c3*  
 322 While thou thyself,] <Come then today and strive & strive & fail> While thou <see> thyself *c3*  
 323 Alone, unloved] Alone unloved *c3*; <Whil>\Alon/e, unloved *c4*; Alone involved, *CW*  
 323 where.] where *c3*  
 324 and ... fail,] & strive & strive and fail *c3*  
 325 and conquered] & wearied *c3*; and conquered – *CW*  
 325 avail,] avail *c3*  
 326 and fairer to] & fairer for *c3*

In triumph thou thy short life passedst through,  
Glad every day and making others glad.”

330 Methinks he knew not, or for good or bad  
The words she spake to him, but in his eyes  
Gleamed a strange light, as he beheld her rise  
And step down toward him; as a king’s eyes gleam  
When from the hall forth unto battle stream  
His folk foredoomed behind him, and the shout  
335 Of foes unnumbered ringeth round about.

But now on his hot hand her hand did fall  
Ice-cold, and slow she led him down the hall  
Until they came unto the laver fair,  
And there she bade him bide, and into the air  
340 Departed, but returning presently  
Bare store of herbs with her all strange to see,  
With some whereof her dreadful hair she crowned,  
And some she strewed about upon the ground,  
Or cast into the water: then she took  
345 The ram now dead, and from her long arms shook

327 In ... through,] Thou passed thy span in triumph through *c3*  
328 and] & *c3*  
328 glad.”] glad *c3*  
329 knew not] knew *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
329 bad] bad, *CW*  
330 him,] him *c3*  
332 him; ... king’s] him as a kings *c3*  
333 When] <T>\W/hen *c3*  
334 him, and] him & *c3*  
335 about.] about *c3*  
336 But] [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
337 ice-cold,] ice-cold *c3*  
338 Until they came] <Untrembling> \Until they came/ <she until> *c3*  
338 fair,] fair <They came, and then she bade him bide still there> <Then went her ways wel> <They  
came> *c3*  
339 bide, and] bide & *c3*  
340 Departed,] Departed *c3*  
341 Bare] <Had> \Bare/ *c3*  
341 see,] see *c3*  
342 crowned,] crowned ,*c3*  
343 ground,] ground *c3*  
344 water:] water *c3*  
345 dead,] dead *c3*

The cumbering raiment back, and therewith strode  
 Unto the fire and cast therein her load,  
 That flesh and fell and bone the fire licked up;  
 Then from her girdle did she take a cup,  
 350 And filled it from that water, and then spake;  
 “Drink, and fear not; thine heart that so doth ache  
 Shall rest a while; lie down hereby, and sleep  
 Over the trouble of thy soul shall creep  
 Despite thyself: but when thou wak’st, take thou  
 355 Thine harp, if aught there be within thee now  
 Of melody; and in the sweetest wise  
 Thou mayest, sing thou of they miseries:  
 For doubt thou not, that those shall be anear  
 Who all thy tale shall nowise fail to hear  
 360 Howso they mock thee afterward. Farewell,  
 What end soe’er of this thou hast to tell,  
 Belike it is that ne’er shall meet again  
 Thine all devouring feverish longing vain  
 And my despair that the Gods needs must call

346 back, and therewith] and therewith she *c3*  
 347 and] & *c3*  
 347 load,] load *c3*  
 348 fire licked up;] flame licked up *c3*  
 349 cup,] cup *c3*  
 350 from that] with <wa>\th/at *c3*; [folio 12 *c4*]  
 350 spake;] spake *c3*; spake: *CW*  
 351 “Drink,] Drink *c3*; “Drink *CW*  
 351 not;] not: *c3*  
 352 a while; lie] in <sleep> a while lie *c3*; a while. Lie *CW*  
 354 thyself: but] thyself but *c3*; thyself. But *CW*  
 354 wak’st] wakst *c3*  
 355 harp,] harp *c3*  
 356 melody; ... the] melody <tell> in whatso *c3*  
 357 mayest, sing thou] mayest tell <y>\th/ou *c3*  
 358 not,] not *c3*  
 360 Howso] <Who> Howso *c3*  
 360 afterward. Farewell] afterwards – farewell *c3*  
 361 soe’er] soeer *c3*  
 361 tell,] tell *c3*  
 362 ne’er] neer *c3*  
 363 Thine all devouring] Thy <hopeless> all devouring *c3*; Thine all-devouring *CW*  
 364 the Gods] the <great> Gods *c3*

365 Patience and silence the great help of all.”

He drank, and almost ere her speech was o'er  
Sank with dim eyes upon the marble floor  
Then twice he feebly raised his eyes to see  
If she were gone, and twice sank languidly  
370 Again; and yet again somewhat he strove  
To look forth, but now scarcely might he move,  
For heavy sleep was on him, 'gainst his will  
And a void space; then dreams of the fair hill

365 Patience] <Patience> <Great patience> <with those last words> Patience *c3*

365 silence] silence, *CW*

365 all.” ] all *c3*

366 drank,] drank *c3*

366 ere] <h>er\e/ *c3*

366 o'er] oer *c3*

367 floor] floor, *CW*

368 feebly] \feebly/ *c3*

369 gone,] gone *c3*

370 Again; and yet] Again, and ye *c3*

371 forth,] forth *c3*

371 move,] move *c3*

372 him, 'gainst] him gainst *c3*; him 'gainst *CW*

373 a ... fair] dreams withal of \the fair/ Thracian *c3*; a <long> \void/ space <of nought>; <and> then  
<the> \dreams of the fair/ *c4*

That hung in Thrace above his fathers house,  
 375 Beset with youths and maidens amorous,  
 That waited there his coming forth to them  
 With harp and fair song, that the wool robe's hem  
 Might dance about the maidens dancing feet,  
 And her loosed hair smite with its tangles sweet,  
 380 The youths flushed trembling face drawn close anigh.  
 But from the house he deemed there carne a cry  
 'Orpheus is dead, and will not come again'  
 And therewithal he seemed to strive in vain  
 To add a cry unto the wailing loud  
 385 That burst out straightway from the lovesome crowd,  
 But as he strove all sight passed clean away,  
 And no more had he thought of night or day,  
 Or lapse of time, nay scarce if he did live;  
 But none the less ever his mouth did strive

374 fathers] father's *CW*; [Lines 374-75 follow line 376 and are in parenthesis *c3*]

374 That ... house,] And at the foot thereof his father's house *c3*

375 and maidens,] & maidens amorous *c3*

376 That waited] <He dreamed of> \that waited/ *c4*

376 to] <fo>\t/o *c3*

377 song, that] song till *c3*

377 robe's] robes *c3*

378 Might] Should *c3*

378 maidens] maiden's *CW*

378 feet,] feet *c3*

379 loosed] loosed <hair flying> *c3*

379 sweet,] sweet *c3 CW*

380 youths] youth's *CW*

380 trembling ... anigh.] face drawn trembling her anigh *c3*

381 deemed] dreamed *c3*

382 'Orpheus is dead,] Orpheus is dead *c3*; "Orpheus is dead, *CW*

382 again?'] again *c3*; again," *CW*

383 And] And even *c3*; [folio 13 *c4*]

383 therewithal] therewith *c3*

384 cry] scream *c3*

384 wailing] wailings *c3*

385 burst ... the] straightway burst out from that *c3*

385 crowd,] crowd *c3*; crowd; *CW*

386 But ... away,] But even there withal sight passed away *c3*

387 or day,] and day *c3*

388 time,] time *c3*

388 live,] live *c3*

390 With that dumb wail and made no sound at all;  
 Until at last the pillars of the hall  
 Midst a dim twilight did he now behold  
 Grow slowly from the dark void; quenched and cold  
 The fire was; great drops fell from on high  
 395 Into the laver, and a strange wild cry  
 Rang through the long place – O Eurydice  
 My love my love! – yet he knew not that he  
 Had ever cried: but as he slowly rose  
 Unto his feet and drew the raiment close  
 400 Unto his shivering body, and his heart  
 Strove to gain memory, his white lips did part,  
 And as the dead may call unto the dead  
 With listless hands down-dropped, and hopeless head,  
 He cried; “O love, O love Eurydice!”  
 405 And through the hall his voice rang mournfully,  
 And died away, nor other sound was there

390 With] With <al> c3  
 390 wail] wail, c3  
 390 all;] all c3  
 391 at last the] the late white c3  
 392 Midst he] \Through/ <Dim in> a glimmering twilight did c3  
 393 slowly and] \slowly/ from the dark <silent> \void/ <now all que now> quenched & c3  
 394 was; ... on] was <flow dripping from on> \gone, great drops dropped from on/ c3  
 396 place – ] \place/ c3  
 397 love my love! – ] love, my love, CW  
 398 cried; but] cried yet c3  
 399 Unto] [folio 4 verso c3]  
 400 Unto] About c3  
 400 body, and] body & c3  
 401 to ... part,] <in the time gone by to gain some part> \to gain memory, his white lips did part/ c3  
 403 down-dropped ... head,] down-dropped and moveless head c3  
 404 cried; “O love,] cried O love c3; cried: “O love, CW  
 404 Eurydice!”] Eurydice c3  
 405 his voice rang mournfully,] the sound rang mournfully c3; <the sound> \his voice/ rang  
 mournfully, c4  
 406 away,] away c3

Except the drip into the water near,  
And his own breathing: so at last he moved  
And his foot smote against his harp beloved,  
410 And from its strings there came a jarring sound  
Familiar once, but mid the marvels round,  
In that last refuge of his hope and woe  
A stranger sound then err he hearkened to.  
Therewith he gan remember where he was  
415 And all that hitherto had come to pass,  
And of the bidding of the dreadful crone  
Then with the pain of feeling so alone,  
None nigh to tell of all his longing sore  
His heart grew soft, and his vexed eyes ran o'er  
420 With bitter unseen tears; and midst of these

407 drip into] dripping in *c3*  
407 near,] near *c3*  
408 breathing: so] breathing till *c3*; breathing. So *CW*  
409 against] upon *c3*  
409 beloved,] beloved *c3*  
410 its strings] his sound  
411 once, ... round,] yet amid the marvels round *c3*; once, but <now> mid \the/ marvels round, *c4*  
412 In that] Mid the *c3*  
412 and] & *c3*  
413 A] Seemed *c3*  
413 eer ... to.] he had hearkened to *c3*  
413 eer] e'er *CW*  
414 Therewith ... remember] But therewithal he minded *c3*  
414 gan] 'gan *CW*  
415 pass,] pass *c3*  
415 hitherto] hitherto *c3*  
416 bidding ... crone] <words> \bidding of/ the dreadful crone <had said> *c3*  
416 crone] crone. *CW*  
417 alone,] alone *c3*; [folio 14 *c4*]  
418 None nigh] With none *c3*  
418 sore] sore, *CW*  
419 soft,] soft *c3*  
419 o'er] oer *c3*  
420 tears;] tears, *c3*

Came thronging thick and fast the images  
 Of bygone days; he stooped adown to take  
 His harp up, and he felt the strained strings quake,  
 Trembling himself; them with a doubtful hand  
 425 Laid on the harp, a while there did he stand  
 Nor named his hope; until at last the hall  
 Heard his deft fingers on the red gold fall  
 And move in loving wise: though he belike  
 Scarce knew what music therefrom he did strike,  
 430 Scarce knew what words from his parched lips carne forth.  
 For all these things to him were grown nought worth,  
 Only his love lived, only his longing strove  
 To think the whole world filled with his sweet love.

Long ago has he gone, nor left behind  
 435 One work of his to loose love, or to bind,  
 Yet tells the tale his thought in words like these

Faint as they be to match his melodies.  
 While agone my words had wings  
 And might tell of noble things,  
 440 The wide warring of the kings,

422 bygone ... stooped] the old days he stood *c3*; [line drawn between 421-22 with 54 written in  
 margin *c3*]  
 423 harp ... he] well loved harp and *c3*  
 423 quake,] quake *c3*  
 424 himself;] himself *c3* 425 harp,] strings *c3*  
 426 hope;] hope, *c3*  
 427 red gold] strained strings *c3*  
 428 wise:] wise, *c3*  
 429 strike,] strike *c3*  
 430 what] what <who> *c3*  
 430 forth.] forth *c3*  
 431 For] <W>\Fo/r *c3*  
 431 worth,] worth *c3*; worth: *CW*  
 432 lived,] lived *c3*  
 433 filled ... love.] peopled with his love *c3*  
 434 Long ... gone,] Long ago has he gone *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
 435 love, ... bind,] love or to bind *c3*  
 436 words like these] <such a wise>\words like these/ *c3*; words like these, *CW*  
 437 they be] it is *c3*  
 437 melodies.] melodies – *c3* [Line drawn after 437 followed by line 486 *c3*]  
 438 While] [folio 5 recto is an inserted 34 lined white folio bearing lines 438-486 *c3*; WHILE *CW*  
 439 things,] things *c3*

And the going to and fro  
Of the wise that the world do know  
Then the sea was in my song,  
And the wing blew rough & strong,  
445 And the swift steeds swept along  
And the griding of the spears  
Reached the hot heart through the ears

So a slim youth sang I then  
Mid the beards of warring men;  
450 Till the great hall rang again,  
And the swords were on their knees  
As they hearkened word like these.

Or before the maids that led  
The white oxen sleek full fed,  
455 When the field gave up its dead,  
The dead lover of the sun  
Sweet I sang when day was done.

440 The wide] Of the *c3*  
440 kings, ] kings *c3*  
441 and] & *c3*  
442 the ... world] wise men <#> that the word *c3*  
442 know] know. *CW*  
443 song, ] song *c3*  
444 And] Or *c3*  
444 & strong,] and strong *c3*; and strong, *CW*  
445 And] Or *c3*  
445 swept] raced *c3*  
446 And] Or *c3*  
447 ears] ears. *CW*  
448 So] [folio 15 *c4*]  
449 men; ] men *c3*  
450 again, ] again *c3*  
452 As] When *c3*  
452 these. ] these *c3*  
454 oxen sleek] oxen, sleek, *CW*  
454 fed, ] fed *c3*  
455 dead, ] dead *c3*  
456 sun] sun, *CW*

Hearts I gladdened limbs made light  
When the feet of girls gleamed white  
460 In the odorous torch-lit night,  
And Belike my heart did flame  
Though my cheek told lies of shame

Or in days not long ago,  
Would I sit as if alone  
465 Though around stood many a one,  
Each as if alone we were  
For of fresh love sang I there.

All such things could I sing now,  
And to this dull silence show  
470 How the life of man doth grow;  
Of all love and hope and hate  
And unseen slow-creeping fate.

But of this how shall I sing?  
The sick hope whereto I cling,  
475 The despair that everything,  
Moaneth with about mine eyes,  
This dull cage of miseries?

457 I sang] sang I *CW*

457 done, ] done *c3*

458 gladdened] gladdened *CW*

458 light] light, *CW*

459-60 When ... night,] In the odorous torchlit light

When the feet of girls gleamed white *c3*

462 shame] <fl> shame *c4*; shame.

463 agoe,] agoe *c3*

464 sit] sing *c3*

465 one,] one *c3*

466 we were] wee <e>r *c3*; we<re> were *c4*

467 there.] there *c3*

468 All such things] Yea <oft> all such *c3*

470 grow; ] grow *c3*

471 hope and] <war> hope & *c3*

472 slow-creeping fate.] slow creeping fate *c3*

473 sing?] sing *c3*

474 The sick] the <#> sick *c3*

474 cling,] cling *c3*

475 that everything,] <w>t/hat everything *c3*; that everything *CW*

476 mine eyes,] mi<#>ne

Slow died the sweet wail of his voice along  
 The dusk of the hall; an echo of his song  
 480 He deemed came back, he knew not whence or how  
 But there a long while stood he silent now  
 Amid the silence, till a sudden thought  
 An unseen frown unto his white brow brought  
 And once again he smote his harp and sang  
 485 Great words that wildly through the dread hush rang  
  
 O ye, who sit alone And bend above the earth,  
 So great that the world's gain Is but a hollow dearth,  
 And pain forgot like laughter, And love of fleeting worth,  
 Did ye teach me how to sing Or where else did I gain  
 490 The tears slow born of bliss, The sweetness drawn from pain?  
  
 I stand alone and longing Nor know if aught doth live  
 Except myself and sorrow Nor know with whom to strive,  
 Nor know if ye have might To hold back or to give,

477 miseries?] miseries *c3*  
 478 Slow] SLOW *CW*  
 478 wail] <voice>\wail/ *c3*; [folio 16 *c4*] wai<t>\l/ *c4*  
 479 hall;] hall *c3*  
 479 dark] dusk *c3*  
 480 back,] back *c3*  
 480 whence or how] how or where *c3*  
 481 But there] And so *c3*  
 481 now] there *c3*  
 482 silence,] silence *c3*  
 484 and] [folio 5 verso *c3*]; & *c3*  
 485 dread hush rang] silence rang – *c3*; dread hush rang. *CW*  
 486 ye,] ye *c3*; Ye, *CW*  
 486 earth,] earth *c3 CW*  
 487 world's gain Is] earth's gain is *c3*  
 487 dearth,] dearth *c3*  
 488 And ... worth,] pain but a little laughter & love of little worth *c3*  
 489 Or] or *c3*  
 490 slow ... pain?] slow born of joy the bliss drawn forth from *c3*  
 490 slow born] slow-born *CW*  
 491 Nor] nor *c3*  
 492 and] & *c3*  
 492 Nor know] – nor knows *c3*  
 492 stive,] strive *c3*  
 493 have might] <can love <On>> \have might/ *c4*  
 493 To] to *c3*  
 493 give, ] give *c3*

495 Nor know if ye can love, Or what your hate shall be  
Or if ye are my foes, Or the love that burns in me.

Can ye hearken as men hearken, Can I move you as ere while  
I moved the happy kings, And the wise men did beguile,  
When the lover unbeloved Must sigh with rest and smile  
For the sweetness of the song That made not light of woe,  
500 And the youngling stand apart, And learn that life must go

O ye who ne'er were fettered, By the bonds of time and ill,  
Give give, if ye are worthy Or leave me worthier still:  
For the measure of my love No gain of love should fill.  
If I held the hands I love, If I pressed her who is gone,

494 love, Or] love or c3; love, <O>\O/n c4  
494 shall be] may c3  
495 my foes, On] <my> \fo/es or c3  
495 burns] stirs c3  
496 hearken, Can] hearken can c3  
496 ere while] erewhile c3 CW  
497 kings, And] kings & c3  
497 did beguile,] I beguiled c3; did beguile? CW  
498 When] [folio 6 recto c3]; And c3  
498 Must] must c3  
498 and] & c3  
499 That] that c3  
499 woe,] woe c3  
500 And] <And the maids did drop their lids & their full hearts fuller grow> And c3  
500 apart, And] apart and c3  
500 go.] go c3  
501 who ... By] who <se hands are> \never were/ by c3  
501 and ill,] or ill c3  
502 give, ] give c3  
502 worthy Or] \worthy/ or c3  
502 still:] still c3  
503 No] no c3  
503 should] should ever c3  
504 held] he <e>\l/d c3  
504 love, If] love <l>\i/f c3 503 her ... gone,] who is gone c3

505 Living breathing to my breast, Not e'en so were all well won

O be satisfied with this, That no end my longing knows  
If the years might not be counted, For we twain to sit all close  
As on earth we sat a little Twixt the lily and the rose,  
Sat a little and were gone Ere we mingled in the strife  
510 Ere we learned how best to love, Ere we knew the ways of life  
Folk pray to us of earth, To be loved, and sick at heart  
Must turn their eyes away, And from every hope depart  
We are lone who cannot give, And grow hard beneath the smart  
But ye have wealth and might, Ye can hearken & can give,  
515 What gain is there in death, O be wise and make alive.

He ceased and listened, for he deemed a sound  
Unnameable stirred the still air around

505 Living ... won] Living <n> \b/reathing to my breast never then would all be won c3; Living, breathing, to my breast, Not e'en so were all well won. *CW*  
506 this, That] this that c3; [folio 17 c4]  
507 counted, For we] counted for us c3; counted, For <us> \we/ c4  
508 As ... Twixt] <O a little time on earth> \As on earth we sat a little/ twixt c3  
508 little] <while> \little/ c4  
508 and] & c3  
509 Ere] <er> ere we c3  
509 strife] strive c3; strife, *CW*  
510 to love, Ere] to love ere c3; \to/ love, Ere c4  
510 life] life. *CW*  
511 earth, To] earth to [folio 5 verso c3]; earth to *CW*  
511 sick] <with> sick c3  
512 eyes] hope c3  
512 away, ... depart] away when in them we have no part c3  
512 depart] depart: *CW*  
513 lone ... And] lonely and <we>\can/not\give/we c3  
514 wealth and might,] might & wealth c3  
514 & can give,] and can give c3; and can give, *CW*  
515 gain] <good >\gain/ c4  
515 death,] death c3; death? *CW*  
515 and make alive.] & make alive c3; and make alive! *CW*  
516 He] HE *CW*  
516 listened, for] listened and c3; [folio 6 recto c3]  
517 around] around – c3; around, *CW*

But knew not if from his own heart it was;  
But into utter silence all did pass.  
520 Whateer it might be, in a while, and he  
Stood in that place a moment silently,  
Then passed unto the door, and gazed about  
And the same glimmering twilight was without  
As in the hall, and silence as of death,  
525 So that the very drawing of his breath,  
His feet just scarcely moving gainst his will  
Seemed a great sound, portentous, mid the still  
Warm moveless air: till now he 'gan to think:  
"Yea, perchance death it was that I did drink,  
530 From the crone's cup, and this is but death's life  
Silent and lonely, yet with memory rife,  
With all the pain of the old struggle left,

518 was;] was – *c3*

519 But] <Then> But *c3*

519 pass,] pass *c3*

520 Whateer ... and] Whatso it was <within> with a little & *c3*

520 Whateer] whate'er *CW*

521 moment silently,] short while silently *c3*

522 unto the door,] <forth toward> \unto/ the door <and g> *c3*

524 hall,] hall *c3*

524 death,] death *c3*

525 drawing] catching *c3*

525 breath,] breath *c3*

526 His feet] His *c3*

526 gainst his will] 'gainst his will, *CW*

527 sound, portentous,] sound portentous *c3*

528 air: ... think:] air, and now he 'gan to think *c3*

529 "Yea,] Yea *c3*; Yea, *CW*

529 drink,] drink *CW c3*

530 From ... cup,] A while agone *c3*; <A while agone> \From the crones cup,/ *c4*

531 lonely, ... rife,] lonely withal memory rife *c3*

532 left,] left *c3*

With all the love unsatisfied; hope reft  
 Away from us alone – Ah is it so  
 535 That in such wise with thee the hours do go,  
 And thou art lone, O love, as I am lone?  
 Yet if thy love for me is no more gone,  
 Than is my love, sure we shall meet again  
 To weep and smile above the tales of pain  
 540 That threatened, mocking, it would never cease.  
 Ah, if a word of mine might give thee peace,  
 Now or we meet, now while thou wanderest  
 Amid the languor of this dull unrest!”

And once again his hands ran oer the strings,  
 545 And once again with thought of long-past things  
 His heart swelled into music, and his song  
 Within that echoless land rang sweet and strong.

O me, a white house there was  
 Set amid the Thracian grass,  
 550 And the wood-dove moaned thereover,  
 And the Thracian loved and lover,

- 533 unsatisfied;] unsatisfied *c3*  
 534 Away] <Alone> away *c3*  
 534 Ah] ah *c3*  
 535 go,] go *c3*  
 536 thou ... lone?] art lone O love as I am lone *c3*  
 537 gone,] gone *c3*  
 538 love,] love *c3*; [folio 17 *c4*]  
 540 threatened ... cease. ] mocking threatened that it neer should cease – *c3*  
 541 Ah,] Ah *c3*  
 541 peace,] peace *c3*  
 542 we meet, now] ere nor *c3*  
 543 dull unrest! It] world unblest<sup>h</sup> *c3*; dull unrest! *CW*  
 544 oer the strings,] oer the strings *c3*; [No new verse paragraph *c3*]; o'er the strings, *CW*  
 545 long-past] long past *c3*  
 546 music,] music *c3*  
 547 echoless land] \echoless/land <of dreams> *c3*  
 547 and strong.] & strong *c3*  
 548 O me, a] A *c3* [folio 6 verso *c3*]; O ME, a *CW*  
 549 grass,] grass *CW*  
 550 wood-dove] dove *c3*  
 551 and lover,] & lover *c3*

Passing by the garden-close  
 Speaking words that no one knows,  
 Stopped awhile to smile and say  
 555 'Orpheus shall be wed to day'  
 'The white feet of Eurydice  
 Fair, as thou art fair to me  
 Soft beneath the lilies white –'  
 'Bear her forth to full delight  
 560 Till the night and morn shall touch.'  
 'Come then love, for overmuch  
 Them and us the Gods do bless  
 With enduring happiness.'  
 'Yea love, for the grass is green  
 565 Still, and thrushes run between  
 The faint mallows overworn  
 And the berries of the thorn  
 Know no ruddy threat of death!  
  
 So they felt each other's breath  
 570 And each others shoulders warm,  
 And the weight of hand and arm

552 garden-close] garden close *c3*  
 553 knows, ] knows *c3*  
 554 and] & *c3*  
 555 'Orpheus ... day' ] Orpheus will be wed today *c3*; "Orpheus shall be wed today –" *CW*  
 556 'The ... of] <And white armed> \The white of/ *c3*  
 556 'The] "The *CW*  
 557 Fair,] Fair *c3 CW*  
 558 'Soft beneath] Up betwixt *c3*; "Soft beneath *CW*  
 558 White –'] white *c3*; white –" *CW*  
 559 "Bear ... delight] <Shall> pass\eth/ <to bring him all> \delight/ *c3*  
 560 morn shall touch.'] day shall touch *c3*; <day> \morn/ shall touch.' *c4*; morn shall touch." *CW*  
 561 'Come then love,] Come then love *c3*; "Come then, love, *CW*  
 563 enduring happiness.'] their summer happiness *c3*  
 563 happiness.'] happiness." *CW*  
 564 'Yea love, for] Come then while *c3*; "Yea love, for *CW*  
 565 Still, and] And the *c3*  
 566 overworn] overworn, *CW*  
 568 death!] death *c3*; death!" *CW*  
 569 other's] others *c3*; [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
 570-71 And each ... arm] [No corresponding lines *c3*]

As they went amid the grass;  
 There her naked feet did pass  
 And her hand touched blossoms fair  
 575 By the poison lurking there  
 In the yellow-throated snake;  
 But their beauty did not wake  
 His dull heart and evil eyes  
 And belike in happy wise  
 580 They abide now, and shall come  
 Yet again unto that home.

Ah, the gate is open wide,  
 And the wild bees only hide  
 In the long-cupped blossoms there,  
 585 And the garden-god is bare  
 Of the flowers he used to have,  
 And no scythe the sward doth shave  
 And the wilding grasses meet  
 High above their faltering feet  
 590 Where the lilies used to grow  
 And unnailed the peach hangs now  
 No more is the fountain full  
 And the dial's gold is dull;  
 And the foot worn pink veined stone  
 595 Of the peach all green hath grown;

572 grass;] grass *c3*  
 573 There] And *c3*  
 576 snake;] snake *c3*  
 577 beauty] fairness *c3*  
 578 eyes] <wise> \eyes/ *c3 c4*  
 580 now, and shall] and sometimes *c3*  
 580 now,] < , > now, *c4*  
 581 Yet ... that] To that red roofed pillared *c3*  
 582 Ah, ... wide,] Ah <me> <a> & the gate is \open/ wide *c3*  
 583 long-cupped] long cupped *c3*  
 584 there,] there *c3*  
 585 garden-god] garden god *c3*  
 586 have,] have *c3*  
 587 scythe] s\c/ythe *c4*  
 591 unnailed ... peach] the peach unnailed *c3*  
 591 now] noe, *CW*  
 592-93 No ... full] [No corresponding lines] *c3*  
 594 And ... worn] Down the wall the *c3*  
 594 foot ... veined] foot-worn pink-veined *CW*  
 595 Of] In *c3*  
 595 hath grown;] has grown *c3*

Through the empty chambers cold  
Moans the wind as it did hold  
Dull winter mid the summer's heart.

Think ye that the twain depart  
600 Glad that they alone are glad?  
They who saw the clothes that clad  
Her fair body that fair night,  
Yellowing as the jasmine white  
Yellow as it fades away,  
605 And how withered roses lay  
On the pillows of the bed  
That neer touched her golden head?

They who looked so close they saw  
The bed-gear into creases draw;  
610 Drawn that noon so by my mouth  
Feverish with half-happy drowth.

And the threshold, saw they not  
Where my lips thereon were hot  
Ere she came, that she might feel  
615 As her feet there o'er did steal

597 Moans] Moan *c3*  
598 mid] <in>\mid/ *c4*; [folio 7 recto *c3*]  
598 summer's heat.] summers heart *c3*  
599 Think] [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
600 glad?] clad *c3*  
601 They who] For they *c3*; [folio 20 *c4*]  
602 night,] night *c3*  
604 Yellow] Yellow\s/ <th> *c4*  
604 away,] away *c3*  
605 And how] <And the> *c3*  
607 neer touched] neer felt *c3*; ne'er touched *CW*  
607 head?] head *c3* [Evergreen bough drawn after "head" *c3*]  
608 They] <Did> They *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
609 bed-gear] white clothes *c3*  
609 draw,] draw *c3*  
611 half-happy drowth.] its happy drowth – *c3*  
612 And] On *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]; <On> \And/ *c4*  
614 came,] <s>\c/ame *c3*  
615 thereo'er] thereoer *c3*

Trembling sweet, and know not why,  
Fluttering hope so soon to die  
In the heart of utter bliss  
As the still night saw our kiss.

- 620 Think ye that these twain might rest  
Till they knew why they, so blessed  
Such a sorrow of heart should feel?  
Through the summer day they steal,  
Een as folk who dwell alone  
625 In a land whence all are gone  
Where their shame hath wrought the thing.  
For their hands forget to cling  
Each to each, and their sweet eyes  
Are distraught with mysteries  
630 Hard to solve and hard to leave.  
Till at ending of the eve  
Folk they meet at last to tell  
How the death of joy befell.
- He ceased now, trembling sore, for certainly  
635 A murmur like a gathering wind went by;

- 616 Trembling] <SSe> Trembling *c3*  
616 sweet,] sweet *c3*  
616 why,] why *c3*  
617 so soon to] that soon should *c3*; <that was> \so soon/ to *c4*  
619 saw our kiss.] <heard> \saw/ our kiss – *c3*; saw our kiss? *CW*  
621 they, ] they *c3*  
622 feel?] feel *c3*  
623 steal,] steal *c3*  
624 Een] E'en *c3*; E'en *CW*  
624 alone] alon<g>\e/ *c3*  
626 Where] And *c3*  
626 thing.] thing *c3*  
627-30 Each ... eve] [No corresponding lines *c3*]  
629 mysteries] <miseries> \mysteries/ *c4*  
631 Till ... eve] Till they met folk sorrowing *c3*  
632 Folk ... to] And with strained cars hear them *c3*; [Folio 21 *c4*]  
633 death] <end> \death/ *c4*  
633 joy befell.] love befell – *c3*  
634 ceased ... sore,] stopped now trembling sore *c3*  
635 murmer ... gathering] murmuring sound like a low *c3*  
635 murmur] murmur<ing> *c4*  
635 by,] by *c3*

Then as it were, a strange laugh musical  
 But mocking, fearful, on his ears did fall.  
 “Yet hearken, O ye hearken, cried he then,  
 Yet hearkening do ye mock the woes of men?  
 640 O speak, speak, yet again O song of mine!  
 Wilt thou be dumb, now, when this love divine  
 Meeteth the very Gods naked, alone,  
 And unafraid as though the world were gone  
 Adown the void?”  
Already as he spake
 645 A step across the threshold did he take,  
 And with his heart a-fire and flaming eyes  
 He let the fountain of his song arise.

636 were] were< , > c4  
 636 laugh] laugh < l > c4  
 637 mocking, fearful,] mocking fearful c3  
 637 fall.] fall c3  
 638 “Ye ... then, ] Ye hearken O ye hearken cried he then c3  
 638 hearken, cried] hearken,” cried CW  
 639 Yet] <T>\Y/et c4; “Yet CW  
 639 hearkening do] hearken and c3  
 639 woes] sons c3  
 639 speak, speak,] speak speak c3  
 640 mine!] mine c3  
 640 dumb, now,] dumb then c3  
 641 Meeteth] Meeting c3  
 642 Gods naked, alone,] Gods< ’ > naked alone c3; Gods, naked, alone, CW  
 642 And unafriad] <All> unafraid c3; And unafraid, CW  
 643 void?” Already] void already c3 [No new verse paragraph c3]  
 645 A] One c3  
 645 take,] take c3  
 646 with] with <he> c3  
 646 a-fire] afire c3  
 647 arise.] arise c3

O if ye laugh, then am I grown  
O Gods, as here I stand alone  
650 The body of a ceaseless moan,  
Yet better than ye are, a part  
Of the world's woe and the world's heart.

For the world laughed not on the morn  
When my full woe from night was born  
655 When first I called on you forlorn:  
The world laughed not, although I feared  
When first its waking breath I heard.

O me! the morn was bright enow;  
A little westering wind did blow  
660 Across the rye-fields outer row,  
Across her white breast no more warm  
Across my numbed enfolding arm

The July morn was bright and clear  
No more the cock's cry did I hear,  
665 Now when the sparrows wakened there,  
Now when all things awoke around  
Mine arms about her heart enwound.

648 O] O < f > c3 [folio 7 verso c3]; O IF CW  
648 grown] grown, c3 CW  
649 Gods,] Gods c3  
650 moan,] moan c3  
652 world's woe ... heart.] worlds woe and the worlds heart c3  
655 I ... forlorn:] on you I cried forlorn c3  
656 not,] not c3  
657 heard,] heard c3  
658 me!] me c3  
658 enow; ] enow c3  
660 rye-fields] rye fields c3; rye-field's CW  
660 row,] row c3  
662 my] <#> my c4  
663 The July] O<f> \t/he June c3; [folio 22 c4]  
663 clear] clear, CW  
664 cock's] cocks c3  
664 hear,] hear c3  
665 there,] there c3  
667 enwound, ] enwound c3

Then oer the edge of earth and sky  
The sun arose, and silently  
670 Lit up the lily-heads anigh;  
The sun stole through the room to light  
Her arm hung down, her fingers white.

Higher and higher arose the sun  
Until unto our breasts it won  
675 And burned there till the noon was done;  
Upon my head the sun was hot  
And scorched me sore, but harmed her not.

Then toward the west it gan to wend,  
No wind was left the rye to bend  
680 Till drew the day unto an end;  
No wind until the night grew cold  
Above the face my hands did hold.

Yet all that bright day mocked me nought,  
Through sunny hours its end was wrought  
685 Yet was it sad enow methought;  
Its end was wrought mid clam and peace  
Yet mournfully did it decrease.

668 oer] at c3; o'er CW  
669 The sun arose.] <That morn> the sun arose <to die> c3  
670 Lit up] <And> \Lit up/ c3  
670 anigh;] anigh c3  
672 down, ... white.] down all waxen white c3  
673 and higher arose] & higher clomb c3  
675 done;] done c3  
677 sore,] sore c3  
677 not.] not c3  
678 west it gan] went it gan c3; west it 'gan CW  
678 wend,] wend c3  
680 end;] end c3  
682 hold,] hold c3  
683 Yet all that] And still the c3  
683 nought,] nought c3  
684 Through] <The hours in sun and calm were caught> Through c3  
684 was] was <was> c3  
684 methought;] methought c3  
687 and] & c3

And if men went upon their ways  
Een as in other summer days,  
690 Surely they toiled with no glad face  
Amid the bright day did they seem  
To toil as in a hapless dream

And so at first I thought indeed  
The world was kind to help my need  
695 No thing therein from man to weed  
But it was kind my love to lack  
To help my need and wish her back.

But ye help not nor know how I  
Would help the whole world s misery  
700 And give it bliss ne'er passing by,  
Ne'er passing by, if I might sit  
Above the world, and yearn to it.

He ceased and once more passed the murmur by  
And after it a sound as of a sigh  
705 That sounded sweet to him, for in his heart  
This seemed at last to have a little part.  
Then through the dark he cried:

That if no more I see the sons of men  
Yet even so I am not quite alone!"

"May it be then

710 Then in the air again he heard a moan,

- 689 Een ... other] As in the <s> midst of c3  
689 Een] E'en CW  
690 Surely] Methinks c3  
690 face] face, CW  
691 day] \day/ c3; [folio 23 c4]  
692 dream] dream. CW  
693-702 And ... it.] [No corresponding lines c3]  
694 need] need; CW  
695 weed] weed, CW  
696 lack] lack, CW  
689 worlds] world's CW  
703 and] & c3 [folio 8 recto c3] [No new verse paragraph c3]  
704 And] <No more a laugh> And c3  
705 sounded] seemed most c3  
706 part.] part c3  
707 Then] And c3  
707 cried:] cried may c3  
709 alone!"] alone – c3  
710 the air] air c3 [No new verse paragraph c3]  
710 A] that c3



To satisfy thy lust; some gift wherein  
 Shall poison seem to lurk: this shalt thou take  
 730 And fear not for the end; if for the sake  
 Of that which thou hast set thine heart upon  
 Een such a lonely gift thou deemest well won;  
 But ere thou standest lone and strong, look forth  
 And weigh how much thy grain of woe is worth  
 735 Amid the measureless dust of woes by gone.”

Then ceased the voice, but that strong hearted one  
 Put back his hair to gaze, and lo, a light  
 Spread slowly through the dusk of that half night  
 Until the flowers showed bright, the last trees stood  
 740 Grey 'gainst the blackness of the bounding wood;  
 And then a low and moaning wind, and then  
 Came and passed by the forms of sad faced men  
 And weary women; nor failed each to turn  
 Such eyes on him as into his heart did burn  
 745 An added grief: nor might he turn away,  
 Till as the unending flock of rain clouds grey  
 Oer the sea streaming did they grow to be  
 And each one with its unmatched misery  
 Unnamed, unhealed: until the dusk again  
 750 Dropped slowly down over that world of pain  
 And left him voiceless sightless, void of thought.

- 734 weigh] see *c3*  
 734 grain ... is] small grain may be *c3*  
 735 by gone.”] by gone – *c3*; bygone.” *CW*  
 736 voice, but] voice & *c3*  
 736 gaze, and lo,] gaze and lo *c3*  
 738 dusk] gloom *c3*  
 739 bright,] & *c3*  
 740 'gainst] gainst *c3*  
 740 wood;] wood *c3*  
 741 and] sa<i>d *c3*  
 741 wind, and] wind & *c3*  
 742 Carne ... by] First one by one *c3*  
 742 sad faced] sad eyed *c3*; sad <eyed> \faced/ *c4*; sad-faced *CW*  
 743 weary ... to ] women passed him by and each did *c3*; <and> \nor failed/ each <one did> \to/ *c4*  
 745 An added grief:] An <d> added grief *c3*  
 745 away,] away *c3*  
 746 rain clouds] rain-clouds *CW*  
 747 Oer ... streaming] Driven by the west *c3*  
 747 Oer] O'er *CW*  
 747 be] be, *CW*  
 748 unmatched] different *c3*  
 749 Unnamed, unhealed:] Unnamed unhealed – *c3*  
 750 over] and hid *c3*  
 751 voiceless sightless,] voiceless sightless *c3*; voiceless, sightless, *CW*  
 751 thought,] thought *c3*

And so again the voice to him was brought;  
“O Orpheus, hast thou seen and measured this,  
And wilt thou wail out for a life of bliss,  
755 And deem thyself great-hearted; knowest thou  
If even those thou criedst at e’en now  
Live as live happy men who die? – then pray  
And gain the grace that the Gods give today!”

Thought stirred within him, but his mouth was dumb  
760 A long time, for faint sickness still did come  
Betwixt him and his prayer, until at last  
From out his gasping lips a cry was cast  
Forth to the dark:

“O love Eurydice!  
Where then amid this mournful crowd is she:  
765 With mine own eyes these gazed into my face  
And yet I knew them not.”

Then through the place

752 And so] Then once *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]; [folio 25 *c4*]  
752 brought;] brought *c3*  
753 “O Orpheus,] O Orpheus *c3*  
753 and measured this,] enow of this *c3*  
753 thou] <y>\th/ou *c4*  
754 wail out for] <s> now still ask *c3*  
754 bliss,] bliss *c3 CW*  
755 great-hearted; knowest thou] great hearted speak & pray *c3*; great-hearted? knowest thou *CW*  
756-57 If ... pray] [No corresponding lines *c3*]  
756 at] \at/ *c4*  
758 And ... give] Because some grace belike thou gainst *c3*  
759 him,] him *c3*  
760 time,] time *c3*  
761 prayer,] prayer *c3*  
762 lips a] lips *c3*  
763 dark: “O] dark O *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
764 then amid] then <\is she/> amid *c3*  
764 she:] she *c3*; she? *CW*  
765 not.” Then] not – then *c3*

There came a trembling, and the voice grown great  
 Filled all the air, and shuddering did he wait  
 Till he might know its meaning, and it said:  
 770 “O Orpheus, this thy love is of the dead  
 As well thou knowest: none shall tell thee now  
 Whereas she dwelleth; yet perchance, when thou  
 Goest to the dead land, this and a many thing  
 Thine eyes shall see clear – O thou tuneful king  
 775 What wilt thou have of us; speak out and pray,  
 Gaining the grace that the Gods give today!

But therewithal cried Orpheus eagerly;  
 “O ye if men should learn that one might die  
 And yet return, should not their grief be less  
 780 Because of hope; should not their happiness  
 Falter no more twixt time of longing pain  
 And time of gaining all that they may gain?”

Soft spake the voice; “And thou, O Orpheus then,  
 Wilt bear this thing alone of living men,

- 767 trembling,] trembling *c3*  
 768 air,] air *c3*  
 769 he] she *c3*  
 770 “O Orpheus,] O Orpheus *c3*  
 771 knowest:] knowest *c3*  
 772 dwelleth; yet perchance,] dwelleth – yet perchance *c3*  
 773 land, ... many] land this & a many <th>\a/thing *c3*  
 774 clear – ] clear *c3*  
 775 us;] us? *c3 CW*  
 775 and pray,] & pray *c3*  
 776 Gaining ... today!”] Because a grace than gainst belike today *c3*  
 777 But therewithal cried] And therewithal spake *c3*  
 777 eagerly;] eagerly *c3*; eagerly: *CW*  
 778 “O ye] O ye *c3*; “O ye, *CW*  
 778 might] may *c3*  
 779 return, should] return, shall *c3*; return <;>\, / should *c4*  
 780 hope; should] hope shall *c3*; hope? should *CW*  
 781 twixt time of] <be> twixt <the> time off *c3*  
 782 of ... gain?”] <gai> of/gaining all they well may gain-- *c3*; [folio 26 *c4*]  
 783 voice; “And thou,] voice and thou *c3*; voice: “And thou, *CW*  
 783 then,] then *c3*  
 784 men,] men *c3*

785 And as thou hitherto hast helped them well,  
 Help them in this and leave a tale to tell.  
 For whereas neither God nor man indeed  
 Thou fain wouldst be yet may we grant thy need.  
 Great art thou, great and strong all things to bear!”  
 790 No laughter through the darkness did he hear,  
 Yet a sick fear possessed him, he gan quake  
 As the reed set amid the stream: then spake  
 The voice again:  
 “Nay be thou of good cheer  
 For hither soon shall come the Messenger  
 795 And speak to thee what thou mayest understand,  
 And give thee tidings from the unknown land.  
 – O glorious Orpheus, leader of the earth,  
 Into the paths of rest and endless mirth,  
 Well hast thou done to seek us face to face  
 800 And win despite our will a little grace  
 For the world’s weary sorrow: surely thou  
 Art clean apart from all men born ere now,

785 well,] well  
 786 tell, ] tell  
 786-87 For ... need. ] [No corresponding lines *c3*]  
 788 be] be, *CW*  
 789 and ... bear!”] & strong indeed to bear – *c3*  
 790 No] <th> \No/ *c3*  
 790 darkness ... hear,] dark his <h> ears did hear *c3*  
 791 fear possessed him,] \fear/ smote on him *c3*  
 791 gan] ’gan *CW*  
 792 set ... stream:] midst the swift stream but *c3*  
 793 again: “Nay] again – nay *c3*  
 794 Messenger] messenger *c3*; <m>\Mjessenger *c4*  
 795 understand,] understand *c3*  
 796 from] of *c3*  
 796 land. ] land *c3*  
 797 – O glorious Orpheus,] a glorious Orpheus *c3*  
 797 earth,] earth *c3 CW*  
 798 and endless mirth,] & peace & mirth *c3*  
 801 worlds] world’s *CW*  
 801 sorrow:] sorrow *c3*  
 802 clean ... now] other tha<t>\n/ all <sons of> men brought forth ere now *c3*

And as thou wieldest grief so joy can wield,  
And hold thy patience as an untouched shield  
805 Twixt thee and change – all shall be well with thee  
If thus thou dost, O forge of melody.”

So died the voice, and nothing might he hear  
Save his own heart a-beating: but strange fear  
Unreasoning, of some huge mocking ill  
810 Hanging about him, half his soul did fill  
And struggled with the other half, wherein  
Was fluttering joy of what he looked to win  
Mixed with confused longing: and so dealt  
These thing together, that at last he felt  
815 Nought round about him; nor know where he was,  
But over him a heaviness gan pass  
As if of coming happy death, and slow  
He sank adown on the halls threshold now,  
And in dead sleep lay long in that dull land  
820 With fear and wonder close on either hand.

803 wield,] wield *c3*

805 all] All *CW*

806 dost,] dost *c3*

806 melody.”] melody

807 So ... nothing] Then died the <f> \v/oice & nought now *c3*

808 Save] But *c3*

808 a-beating: but] abeating & *c3*

809 unreasoning,] unreasoning *c3*

810 him,] him *c3*

811 half,] half *c3*

812 of] for *c3*; [folio 27 *c4*]

812 looked] thought *c3*

813 longing:] longing, *c3*

814 These] [folio 9 recto *c3*]

815 round ... nor] rou<gh> \nd/ about him no *c3*; round about him, nor *CW*

815 was,] was *c3*

816 gan] ’gan *CW*

817 As if of] As though of *c3*; <Like> \As if of/ *c4*

818 halls] hall’s *CW*

818 now,] now *c3*

819 sleep ... dull] sleep lay in that marvelous *c3*; <slumber>\sleep/ lay \long/ in that dull *c4*

820 and ... on] & wonder upon *c3*; and wonder <col> close on *c4*

820 hand.] hand *c3*

He woke up with the sound of his own name  
 Filling the air: a sense of wrong and shame  
 Wrought in him as his heavy head he raised  
 And round about him through the half-dusk gazed:  
 825 Howeer it was, beat down he felt, brought low  
 Who had been proud and great a while ago:  
 He rose at last, and therewithal he heard  
 His name given forth, and afterward this word:

“O Orpheus, art thou ready for the sake  
 830 Of love this burden on thy soul to take;  
 Unknowing mid unknowing men to dwell  
 With one who many a secret thing could tell  
 Yet may not? art thou willing to see eyes  
 Thou lovest so grow cold amid surprise  
 835 Of thee and thy desires, and all the ways  
 Of mortal men who wear away blind days,  
 They know not why? Wilt thou be satisfied  
 To have a living body that shall hide  
 A shuddering soul, restless gazing across  
 840 The world s shows and its idel gain and loss  
 Unto the things that shall at least endure –  
 A soul to whom nought earthly shall be pure  
 Or strange or great – nay nay not e’en thy love,

821 up] \up/ c3

822 air:] air, c3

824 the half-dusk gazed:] that half-dusk gazed c3; the half-dusk gazed. *CW*

825 Howeer] Howe’er *CW*

825 it ... down] it was conquered c3

826 ago:] ago c3; ago. *CW*

827 He ... therewithal] But now he rose, and yet again c3

828 forth, ... word:] forth <yet again> \therewithal/ this word – c3

829 “O Orpheus,] O Orpheus c3 [No new verse paragraph c3]

830 soul to take:] life to take c3; soul to take: *CW*

831 mid] thy self with c3

832 could] <might> could/ c3

833 not? art] not – art c3; not? Art *CW*

835 desire,] desires c3

836 wear away] live on through c3; <live> wear away [folio 28] c4

836 days,] days c3

837 why? Wilt] why wilt c3

838 living] <lor> living c4

839 body] body <by thy sid> c3

839 soul, restless gazing] soul that ever looks c3

839 restless] restless, *CW*

840 worlds] world’s *CW*

840 and] with c3

841 endure – ] endure <, > \ – / c4

843 nay nay] nay, nay, *CW*

Thou deemest greater than the Gods above?  
 845 Is it enough, the gain we offer thee?  
 Bethink thee; get thee back, and thou shalt see  
 Thy world again, and nurse thy grief therein,  
 Thy grief and love, then a short space win  
 The rest of death, and gifts thou dream'st not of.  
 850 Or else bear all, and thou shalt see thy love  
 Ere this world's-day is ended – speak and pray,  
 And take the gift the Gods will give today!”

Then Orpheus cried; “O whose'er thou art  
 That speaketh: surely I can hear a part  
 855 Of what thou sayest; telling me that I  
 Shall surely see mine own love presently,  
 She and I face to face – e'en she whom men  
 Once called Eurydice, in old days, when  
 We found each other – for the rest it seems

844 Thou ... above?] Wherewith thou deemest all things thou mayst move *c3*; <Wherewith thou  
 deemst thou mov'st> \Thou deemest greater than/the Gods above? *c4*  
 845 enough,] enough *c3*  
 845 thee?] thee *c3*  
 846 thee;] thee, *c3*  
 847 nurse .. therein,] <in a short space win> \nurse thy grief therein,/ *c4*  
 848 and ... space] & love & in a few days *c3*  
 849 The] The<y> *c3*  
 849 death,] death *c3*  
 849 dream'st not of.] dreamst not of *c3*  
 850 else bear all,] e<en>\ls/e bear all *c3*  
 850 Love] love *c3*  
 851 world's-day] world's day *CW*  
 851 speak and pray,] speak and say *c3*; Speak and pray, *CW*  
 852 And ... today!"] For mighty grace is granted thee today. *c3*  
 853 cried; “O Whosoe'er] cried a who soeer *c3*; cried: “O Whoseo'er *CW*; [No new verse  
 paragraph *c3*]  
 854 speaketh;] speakest *c3*; speaketh: *CW*  
 854 part] part <of> *c3*  
 855 sayest;] speakest *c3*; sayest, *CW*  
 856 presently,] presently *c3*  
 857 face – ... whom] face<& she> \een/ she who\m/ <the> *c3*  
 858 Eurydice,] Eurydice *c3*  
 858 day,] days *c3*  
 859 other – ] other, *c3*  
 859 it seems] me<d> seams *c3*

860 The air holds soundless thoughts, that as in dreams  
 Flicker about my heart, but show nought clear –  
 – The babble of the mind – If thou can'st hear,  
 And understand, hear this: Give thou me back  
 The only thing my heart shall ever lack,  
 865 Or let me be – and let the world grow worse  
 And men and Gods, that heed me nothing, curse  
 Each other, and the endless wrack begin,  
 The endless strife where nought there is to win  
 But worser swifter ruin – O let me be,  
 870 A helpless hapless mass of misery,  
 But lonely at the least, with no pretence  
 To bless or curse your vain omnipotence,  
 To be a part of what your hands have wrought,  
 Who knoweth how, for nought, for nought for nought.”  
  
 875 There stood he panting: but these words being said,  
 Long silence was there, till there grew sick dread  
 Within him, that but mocks the promise was,

860 thoughts,] thoughts *c3*  
 861 my heart,] m<e>\y/ heart *c3*  
 861 nought clear – ] nothing clear *c3*  
 862 – The] The *CW*  
 862 If] if *c3*  
 862 hear,] hear *c3*  
 863 understand, ... thou] understand hearken and give *c3*  
 864 The ... lack,] My only love the thing my heart doth lack – *c3* [folio 9 verso *c3*]  
 865 Or] <then> \Or/ *c3*  
 866 Gods,] Gods *c3*  
 866 nothing,] nothing *c3*  
 867 other,] other *c3*  
 867 begin,] begin *c3*  
 868 strife] stri<v>\f/e *c3*  
 869 But] <And all to> But *c3*  
 869 – O ... be,] let me be *c3*  
 870 misery,] misery *c3*  
 871 least,] least *c3*  
 872 omnipotence,] omnipotence *c3*  
 873 wrought,] wrought *c3*  
 874 how, ... nought.”] how for nought for nought for nought. *c3*  
 875 panting:] panting *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
 875 said,] said *c3*  
 876 sick] a *c3*  
 877 him, ... was,] him that but <dread mockery was>\mocks that promise was] *c3*  
 877 but] <mo> but *c4*

And nothing from henceforth would come to pass  
 Except that lonely death for which he cried.  
 880 But midst his fears a light gan glimmer wide  
 Betwixt the trees, and grew, until he saw  
 A strange and lustrous shape anigh him draw;  
 Man-like it was, not over great to see  
 More than a man, but wings sprang wondrously  
 885 From his two shoulders, bright of changing hue;  
 Moreover when still nigher him he drew,  
 And seemed about himself strange light to bear,  
 In nought might Orpheus see his visage clear;  
 Now burned his eyes with wild and dreadful light,  
 890 Now soft they grew, as though his soul had sight  
 Of something good past words, an odorous air  
 Stirred in his long locks, from his pinions fair,  
 Till his bright cheeks were half veiled; then all stern  
 His mouth grew as of one who needs must learn  
 895 Dread things not dreading them himself, & then

878 And ... would] <that speech and promise that had.> \And nothing now hence forth would/ c3  
 880 fears] fear c3  
 880 gan] 'g<l> an c3; 'gan CW  
 881 trees, and grew,] trees & grew c3  
 882 and] & c3  
 882 anigh] on toward c3  
 882 draw;] draw. c3 CW  
 883 was, ... great] was not over great c3; was, not overgreat CW  
 884 man,] man c3  
 885 From ... hue;] Up from his shoulders <st> \ch/anging strange of hue c3  
 886 still nigher] anigh to c3  
 886 drew, ] drew c3  
 887 bear,] bear c3  
 888 In] In < ought > c4  
 888 clear,] clear c3  
 889 with] with <str> c3  
 890-92 as ... fair,] now from his pinions fair c3  
 890 as ... sight] <and some unnamed delight> \as though his his soul had sight/ c4  
 892 Stirred ... long] <Now> Stirred in his \long/ c4  
 893 Till ... all] Hiding his bright cheeks, then his mouth grew c3  
 894 His ... must] Een as one who hath dread things to c3  
 894 of] o<ne>\f/ c4  
 895 Dread ... himself,] But soft his eyes were over it c3  
 895 &] and CW

In even speech unlike to speech of men  
He spake and said:

“Since thou hast made thy choice,

Here an I sent to bid thee to rejoice  
Yet amid trembling, for e'en so it is  
900 That e'en this little shred of earthly bliss  
Thou hast so wailed for, O thou lonely one,  
Is not yet gained, or the deed fully done  
The Gods have mind to do – nay what strange pain  
Of hope deferred sickens thine heart again?  
905 Be strong, for thou art not amidst a dream,  
And I am he for whom on earth ye deem  
The name of Hermes meet. And now behold,  
Thou sayest that thy love would wax not cold  
How many years soever thou mightst live  
Thou deemst thyself full strong enow to strive  
With all the Gods, to live and long alone  
And it may be that thou art such an one  
E en as thou deemest – then in very deed  
Well shall thy strength now help thee at thy need,  
Behold somewhat the glimmering light doth grow,  
A sign of help to thee, of help enow  
If thou fail'st not. Toward the world set thy face

897 said: “Since] said – Since *c3*

897 choice,] choice *c3*

899-904 Yet ... dream,] And make thee ready to get back again

Not lonely now to that abode again –

And for a sight that ye are in no dream *c3*

899 Yet] <E>\Y/et *c4*

901 thou] [folio 30 *c4*]

906 And ... earth] I am een <y>\h/e <that> \for whom/ on <the> earth *c3*

907 And now behold,] and now behold *c3*

908 sayest] deemest *c3*

908 cold] cold. *c3*

909 mightst live] shouldst live *c3*; might'st live, *CW*

910 deemst] deem'st *CW*

911 Gods,] Gods *c3*

911 alone.] alone *c3*

913 Een] E'en *CW*

913 – then] for *c3*

914 need.] need *c3*

915 Behold somewhat] Behold greater *c3*; Behold <greater> \somewhat/ *c4*; Behold, somewhat *CW*

915 grow, ] grow *c3*

916 of ... enow] is that of help <to thee true now> come nigh thee now/ *c3*; [folio 10 recto *c3*]

917 If ... set] So to the outer world set thou *c3*

Nought doubting of the way, and when the place  
 Thou gainest, whence thou enteredst first this wood,  
 920 Then look beside thee – and how fair and good  
 The snow-drift and the winter then shall seem  
 Unto thine eye! how like a wretched dream  
 The overburdened summer of they woe!  
 For she thine outstretched hand shall surely know,  
 925 But yet forgetting all the hollow past  
 Shall wonder at thine eyes so over cast  
 With wonder, and the pinning of thy cheek.  
 Thy trembling lips, and why thou dost not speak,  
 And why thou shudderest there upon the brink  
 930 Of the dark stream and e en somewhat must shrink  
 Away from her – yea and belike the tears  
 Shall dim her eyes, drawn forth by tender fears  
 Of anger risen within thee, or some change  
 To make the dead forgotten days all strange  
 935 But then withal the pain of her and thee,

918 way,] way *c3*  
 919 gainest, whence] gainest whence <this> *c3*  
 919 first this wood,] this wood *c3*  
 920 thee – ] thee *c3*  
 921 snow-drift and] snow drift & *c3*  
 922 eyes!] eyes. *c3*  
 923 over burdened] over burden *c3*  
 923 woe!] woe *c3*  
 924 hand] hands *c3*  
 924 know,] know *c3*  
 925 hollow] better *c3*  
 926 thine eyes so] thy face all *c3*  
 926 over cast] overcast *CW*  
 927 wonder,] wonder *c3*  
 927 cheek,] cheek *c3*  
 928 lips,] lips *c3*  
 928 speak,] speak *c3*  
 929-931 there ... yea and] and must even shrink yea *c3*  
 932 Shall ... fears] <Shall rise within those loved eyes of hers> Shall dim her eyes tender loving  
 fears *c3*  
 933 anger] anger <and> *c3*  
 934 days] <&> \d/ays *c4*  
 934 strange] strange. *CW*  
 935 and thee,] & thee *c3*; [folio 31 *c4*]

The pity for each other's agony  
Shall make love greater – deem'st thou not that earth  
Shall tremble somewhat through its changing girth  
When round about her heart thine arms are cast  
940 And lips to lips your bodies meet at last –  
O happy, happy shall ye be that tide!"

Panting stood Orpheus, with eyes staring wide  
As from the Gods lips forth the fair speech flowed,  
Gentle, heart-piercing; and his whole soul glowed  
945 With warmth of happy love: yea was it not  
That all that sweetness from his own heart, hot  
With hope returning, meeting love had come:  
Yet when he strove to speak his lips were dumb.  
Nay scarce he knew if yet his aching eyes  
950 Beheld the God or in what wondrous wise  
Things were changed round him: then the voice again  
And oer his heart there swept a wave of pain,  
Bitter and clod, as, smooth word knit to word  
Rose up threat, an overhanging sword:

936 other's] others *c3*  
937 greater – deem'st] greater deemst *c3*; greater <, >\ – / deem'st *c4*  
938 changing girth] panting earth *c3*  
940 to lips] to lip *c3*  
940 last – ] last *c3*  
941 happy,] happy *c3*  
941 tide! It] tide – *c3*  
942 Orpheus,] Orpheus *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
943 from ... flowed,] forth the wondrous melody outflowed, *c3*; from <his lips the wondrous> \the  
Gods lips forth the fair/ speech <out> flowed, *c4*  
944 Gentle, heart-piercing,] Gentle heart-piercing  
945 love: ... not] love it seemed as though *c3*  
945 yea] <it> yea *c4*  
946-51 That ... voice] The sounds he heard from his own heart did flow  
And scarcely now might he behold the God  
Or know whereon his restless footsole <s>\t/rod.  
And now he knew that the God spake *c3*  
947 come:] come? *CW*  
949 aching] ach<e>ing *c4*  
953-56 Bitter ... forget,] As though entangled in time weary met  
His hope his every love he might forget *c3*  
953 Bitter ... knit] <As though entangled> \Bitter and cold,/as, smooth <from> word\knit/ *c4*  
953 word] word, *CW*  
954 a] <that>\a/ *c4*  
954 overhanging] <imminent sharp>\overhanging/ *c4*

- 955 He saw himself entangled in time's net,  
 Of love forgotten, helpless to forget,  
 Yet longing and its sweetness all gone by,  
 And no one left to note his misery –  
 Ah me, a space of time ere he should touch
- 960 The lips that once with longing overmuch  
 Had changed his life! before the words were said  
 Face to face stood he with this newborn dread,  
 And moaned for pity, as confused and dim  
 Slowly their import floated on to him
- 965 As from a waste land:  
Happy shalt thou be,  
 O Orpheus, if the love that is in thee  
 Deal not with time or change or doubt, but still  
 Thou lookest onward through all pain and ill  
 Unto the goal believing that thy love
- 970 Can never die howso the world may move:  
 But ah, how hapless, if thou shouldst forget  
 That thou upon the steps of death art set,  
 If thou shouldst deem this minute all in all  
 And let such dreadful longing on thee fall
- 975 That thou must needs turn around about to gaze  
 On the changed body and the sightless face  
 That ne'er can mate thee, living as thou art;  
 Then certainly a fearful wall shall part
- 957-60 Of ... overmuch] Before his hand once more <th> \sh/ould feel the touch that long ago with  
 longing overmuch c3
- 961 Had ... said] Ha<n>\d/ changed his life; the words went passed his ears c3
- 962-63 Face ... dim] As by a lover's soul the strange <f> \v/ague fears  
When first love lays his burning hand on him –  
But through the magic of sound confused & dim c3
- 962 newborn] newborn c4
- 964-65 Slowly ... be,] These \seemed to reach him/ thoughts his heart made – happy shalt thou be c3
- 965 Happy] “Happy CW
- 966 Orpheus,] Orpheus c3
- 967 Deal] Deals c3
- 967 doubt, but] doubt & c3
- 968 onward] on ward c3
- 969 goal] goal, CW
- 970 move:] move c3
- 971 ah, how hapless,] ah how hapless c3
- 972 set,] set c3
- 973 If ... this] And deem this little c3
- 975 That] [folio 10 verso c3]
- 977 ne'er] neer c3
- 977 thee,] thee c3
- 977 art,] art c3; art! CW
- 978 fearful] drea<r>\d/ful c3

980 Thy soul and her soul; then they love is weighed  
And found a light thing.”

Slowly Orpheus said;

“O hollow sound of empty words again!  
What thing of earth and heaven can know my pain,  
If ye, O Gods, shall doubt my love? – nay this  
Rather I say; ye grudge to see love’s bliss  
985 Here, where things die not: only on the earth  
Beset by cold death’s ever narrowing girth  
Ye let us love – Come love, I know no more  
How much of that sweet space is now passed o’er  
Wherein we have to love – come, unseen sweet.  
990 Be not too far behind my hurrying feet!  
Come the Gods slew thee I redeemed thee dear!  
Come from the dreadful silence hard to bear  
Unto the place where each to each we twain  
May weep the loss of all we hoped to gain!”

995 And therewithal he hastened to be gone  
And saw no more by him the Shining One,  
Nay methinks scarce now had a thought of him,

979 soul;] soul, *c3*

980 light ... Orpheus] poor light thing – therewith he groaned & *c3*

980 said;] said *c3*; said: *CW*

981 “O hollow sound] O hollow sound <O threat> *c3*

981 again!] again *c3*

982 can] may *c3*

983 pain, ] pain *c3*

983 If ... this] If ye doubt lover rather say I this<s> *c3*

984 Rather ... see] Ye grudge O Gods to look upon *c3*

984 say;] say: *CW*

985 Here,] Here *c3*

985 not:] not *c3*

986 death’s] deaths *c3*

987 Come love,] come love *c3*; Come, love, *CW*

988 o’er] oer *c3*

989 – come, unseen sweet,] come O my sweet *c3*; <,>\-/ come <then my> *c4*

990 far] far <i> r *c3*

991-94 Come ... gain!”] [No corresponding lines *c3*]

991 Come] Come, *CW*

991 thee ... thee] thee, I redeemed thee, *CW*

993 place ... each] <lone earth where at least> \place where each to each/ *c4*

995 And] [No new verse paragraph *c3*]

996 One,] one *c3*

997 scarce ... him, ] <not> \scarce/ of him had he a thought *c3*

As oer the open space into the dim  
 Close wood he hurried: on he went until  
 1000 The sweetness of this love his heart gan fill  
 With many a thought, until his harp, his friend  
 He 'gan to handle, and therefrom did send  
 A low sweet sound, and his soul's longing fell  
 Into sweet words whereof e'en these may tell.

1005 Winter in the world it is  
 Round about the unhoped kiss  
 Whose shadow I have long moaned o'er;  
 Round about the longing sore  
 That the touch of thee shall turn  
 Into joy too deep to burn.  
 Round thine eyes and round thy mouth  
 Passeth no murmur of the south,  
 When my lips a little while  
 Leave thy quivering tender smile,  
 As we twain hand touching hand  
 Once again together stand:  
 Sweet is that as all is sweet,  
 For the cold drift shalt thou meet,

998 oer] o'er *CW*

999 hurried] hurr<y>\i/ed *c3*; [folio 33 *c4*]

1000 gan] 'gan *CW*

1000 thought] thought *c3*

1001 harp,] harp *c3*

1002 'gan to handle,] gan to handle *c3*

1003 sound,] sound *c3*

1003 soul's] hearts *c3*

1004 e'en ... tell.] een this may tell – *c3*

1005 Winter] WINTER *CW*

1005 is] is, *K RT*

1006 Round ... unhoped] <\And all/> Round about <our> \the unhoped/ *c3*

1007 shadow ... moaned] dream I long have sorrowed *K RT*

1007 o'er:] oer *c3*; o'er *BV*

1008 sore] sore, *BV K RT*

1010 burn:] burn *c3*; burn. *BV K RT CW*

1011 thine] th<y>\ine/ *c4*

1011 and] & *c3*

1012 Passeth no murmur] Shalt pass no murmuring *c3*

1012 south,] south *c3 BV*

1013-15 When ... As] When *c3*

1015 twain hand] twain <together> \hand/ *c4*; twain, hand *BV K RT CW*

1015 touching hand] touching hand, *BV CW*; holding hand, *K RT*

1016 stand:] stand *c3*; stand. *BV K RT CW*

1017 sweet,] sweet *c3*; sweet; *K RT CW*

1017 that] that. *K RT*

1018 the ... meet,] <the well beloved feet> \the cold drift shalt thou meet/ *c3*

1018 cold] white *K RT*

1018 meet,] meet *c3 BV*

Kind and cold-cheeked and mine own,  
 1020 Wrapped-about with deep-furred gown  
 In the wide-wheeled chariot:  
 Then the north shall spare us not;  
 The wide-reaching waste of snow  
 Wilder, lonelier shall grow,  
 1025 As the short-lived sun falls down.

But the warders of the town,  
 When they flash the torches out  
 O'er the snow amid their doubt,  
 And their eyes at last behold  
 1030 Thy red litten hair of gold,  
 Shall they open, or in fear  
 Cry 'alas what cometh here,  
 Whence hath come this heavenly one?  
 To tell of all the world undone?  
 They shall open, and we shall see  
 The long street litten scantily

- 1019 Kind ... cheeked] \Kind/ Cold <and weary> \cheeked/ c3  
 1019 own,] own c3; own <;>\, / c4; own; *BV*  
 1020 Wrapped-about] Wrapped within c3; Wrapped about *BV K RT*; Wrapt about *CW*  
 1020 with deep-furred] the deepfurred c3  
 1021 wide-wheeled chariot:] wide wheeled cha<ir>ri/ot c3; broad-wheeled chariot; *BV*;  
 broad-wheeled chariot: *K RT*  
 1022 Then] And c3  
 1022 not;] not c3; not, *BV*  
 1023 The wide-reaching] <And> the wide reaching c3  
 1024 Wilder,] Wilder c3  
 1024 shall grow,] shall grow c3 *K RT CW*; yet shall grow *BV*  
 1025 short-lived] reddened *BV K RT*  
 1025 down. ] down c3  
 1026 town,] town c3 *CW*; [No new verse paragraph c3]  
 1028 O'er] oer c3  
 1028 doubt, ] doubt c3  
 1029 their ... last] at last their eyes c3  
 1030 red litten] red-litten *BV*  
 1030 gold,] Gold c3; gold; *K RT*  
 1031 open,] open c3; [folio 34 c4]  
 1032 Cry, 'alas] "Cry alas c3; Cry, Alas, *BV*; Cry, "Alas! *K RT*; Cry, "Alas, *CW*  
 1032 cometh here] draweth near c3; cometh here? *K RT CW*  
 2033 heavenly one?] heavenly one c3 [folio 11 recto c3]; heavenly one?<'> c4; Heavenly  
 One *K RT*  
 1034 undone?"] undone c3; undone? *BV*  
 1035 open, ] open c3  
 1036 litten] litt<le>\en/ c3

With the stream of light before  
 The guest-hall's just opened door,  
 And our horses' bells shall cease  
 1040 As we gain the place of peace:  
 Thou shalt tremble, as at last  
 The worn threshold is oerpast  
 And the firelight blindeth thee:  
 Trembling shalt thou cling to me  
 1045 As the sleepy merchants stare  
 At thy cold hands slim and fair  
 Thy soft eyes and happy lips  
 Worth ten times their richest ships.

O my love, how over-sweet,  
 1050 That first kissing of thy feet,  
 When the fire is sunk alow,  
 And the hall made empty now  
 Groweth solemn dim and vast!  
 O my love the night shall last

1037 With the] <Shall see> Then shall *c3*; By the *BV*; By the long *K RT*  
 1037 of] out *c3*  
 1038 guest-hall's] guest halls *c3*; guest-halls *BV*  
 1038 just opened] half opened *BV*; half-open *K RT*  
 1038 door,] door *c3*; door; *K RT*  
 1039 our] <h> our *c4*  
 1039 horses'] horses *c3 BV*  
 1040 gain] reach *K RT*  
 1040 or peace:] & of peace *c3*; of peace; *K RT*  
 1041 tremble,] tremble *c3 CW*  
 1042 oerpast] o'erpast, *BV*; o'er-past, *K RT*; o'erpast *CW*  
 1043 fire light] firelight *c3 CW*; fire-light *BV*  
 1043 thee: ] thee *c3*  
 1044 me] me – *c3*  
 1045-48 As ... ships.] [No corresponding lines *c3*]  
 1046 fair] fair, *BV K CW*  
 1048 ten ... ships.] all lading of all ships *c3*; all lading of their ships. *K RT*  
 1049 love,] love *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
 1049 how] <O> \h/ow *c4*  
 1049 over sweet,] over sweet *c3*; over-sweet *BV CW*; sweet and sweet *K RT*  
 1050 feet,] feet *c3*  
 1051 alow,] alow *c3*  
 1053 solemn] solemn, *K RT*  
 1053 and vast!] & vast – *c3*  
 1054 love] love, *BV K CW*; [New verse paragraph *BV*]

1055 Longer than men tell thereof  
 Laden with our lonely love!  
 Somewhat he lingered now, his hand he laid  
 Upon his forehead even as if he weighted  
 Strange thoughts within him; then he hurried on  
 1060 Once more, as eager all should be well won,  
 Nor spake aught a long while; and then once more  
 A wave of sweet fresh longing swept all o'er  
 His troubled heart: slower a while he went  
 And from his parched mouth song again he sent.  
 1065 Shall we wake one morn of spring,  
 Glad at heart of everything,  
 Yet pensive with the thought of eve?  
 Then the white house shall we leave,  
 And go walk about the meads  
 1070 Till our very joyance needs  
 Rest at last; and we shall come  
 To that Sun-god's lonely home,  
 Lonely till the feast-time is,  
 When with prayer and praise of bliss,  
 1075 Thither comes the country side.  
 There awhile shall we abide,  
 Sitting low down in the porch

1056 love!] love *c3*

1057 Somewhat] New verse paragraph *CW*

1058 forehead] forehead, *CW*

1059 him;] him *c3*

1060 more,] more *c3*

1060 won,] won *c3*

1061 while; and then] while – then *c3*; while; and then<ce> *c4*

1062-66 A ... everything, ] [These lines are written in pencil by May Morris *c4*]

1062 all o'er] well oer *c3*; [folio 35 *c4*]

1063 heart:] heart *c3*

1064 song again] such a strain *c3*

1065 spring,] spring *c3*; [new verse paragraph *CW*]

1066 everything,] everything *c3*

1067 eve?] eve *c3*

1068 leave,] leave *c3*

1069-70 And ... needs] Pass the wind-flowers and the bays,

Through the garth, and go our ways,

Wandering down among the meads *K RT*

1071 last;] last *c3*

1072 To ... home,] Lonely on the hill-side grey,

Whence the sheep have gone away *K RT*

1072 Sun-god's] sun Gods *c3*

1073 feast-time is,] feast time is *c3*

1074 prayer ... bliss,] hope & prayer of bliss *c3*

1075 thither ... side.] Thereto cometh the country side *c3*

1076 abide,] abide *c3*

By that image with the torch:  
 Thy one white hand laid upon  
 1080 The black pillar that was won  
 From the far-off Indian mine;  
 And my face nigh toucheth thine,  
 But not touching; and thy gown  
 Fair with spring-flowers cast adown  
 1085 From thy bosom and thy brow.  
 There the south-west wind shall blow  
 Through thine hair to reach my cheek,  
 As thou sittest, nor mayst speak,  
 Nor mayst move the hand I kiss  
 1090 For the very depth of bliss;  
 Nay, nor turn thine eyes to me.

Then desire of the great sea  
 Nigh enow, but all unheard,  
 In the hearts of us is stirred,

1078 image] Image *c3*  
 1078 torch:] torch *c3*  
 1079 one] \one/ *c3*  
 1080 won] <o>\w/on <e> *c3*  
 1081 far-off] far off *c3*  
 1081 mine;] mine *c3*  
 1082 face ... thine,] check anigh to thine *c3*  
 1083 touching;] touching *c3*  
 1084 spring-flowers] spring flowers *c3*  
 1085-90 From ... bliss;] [no corresponding lines *c3*]  
 1091 Nay ... me.] And thine eyes not turned to me *c3*  
 1092 then] Till *c3*; [No new verse paragraph *c3 K RT*]  
 1093 Nigh enow] Not far off *c3*  
 1093 unheard,] unheard *c3*  
 1094 stirred,] stirred *c3*

1095 And we rise, we twain at last,  
 And the daffodils downcast  
 Feel thy feet and we are gone  
 From the lonely Sun-Crowned one.  
 Then the meads fade at our back,  
 1100 And the spring day 'gins to lack  
 That fresh hope that once it had;  
 But we twain grow yet more glad.  
 And apart no more may go  
 When the grassy slope and low  
 1105 Dieth in the shingly sand:  
 Then we wander hand in hand  
 By the edges of the sea,  
 And I weary more for thee  
 Than if far apart we were,  
 1110 With a space of desert drear  
 'Twixt thy lips and mine, O love!  
 – Ah, my joy, my joy thereof!

Now as he sang he 'gan to wend more slow  
 Yea well nigh stopped, and seemed to hearken now

1095 rise,] rise *c3* [folio 11 verso *c3*]  
 1095 last,] last *c3*  
 1096 downcast] downcast, *K RT*  
 1097 and] & *c3*  
 1098 Sun-Crowned one.] sun crowned one *c3*  
 1099 back,] back *c3*  
 1100 'gins] gins *c3*  
 1101 That] The *c3*  
 1101 had,] had *c3*  
 1102 glad, ] glad *c3*  
 1105 Dieth] Endeth *c3*  
 1105 sand: ] sand *c3*  
 1107 By] Down *c3*  
 1107 sea,] sea *c3*  
 1109 were] we <ar>\re/ *c3*  
 1110 With] And *c3*  
 1111 'Twixt] Twixt *c3*  
 1111 mine, O love!] mine my love *c3*  
 1112 – Ah, ... thereof!] O my joy my joy thereof. *c3*  
 1112 – Ah,] Ah, *K RT*; [May Morris's note: "From CFM's printer's <copy> M. S. of Poems by the  
 Way From the Up land to the Sea." *c4*]  
 1113 'gan to wind] gan to tread *c3*  
 1114 stopped,] stopped *c3*

1115 For footsteps following – no sound might he hear  
 But his own heart a-beating, and great fear  
 Stung sudden to the quick, and forth he sprang  
 And from his random-smitten harp there rang  
 A loud discordant noise: swift he passed on  
 1120 A long while silent, till upon him won  
 A dreadful helpless sense of loneliness  
 That with all fear his spirit did oppress;  
 And at the last he cried: “Eurydice  
 O hearken if thou art anigh to me!  
 1125 Hearken lest I faint and fear thou too  
 Shouldst faint and fear, and all be left to do  
 Once more – O hearken sweet – this is a dream  
 And all our sorrow now doth only seem  
 And thou art mine and I am thine: we lie,  
 1130 We twain, at home so soft and quietly  
 In the moon-litten bed amid the sound  
 Of leaves light rustling, and my arms are wound  
 About thy body, but thy hands fall down

1115 – no ... hear] <then as though some fear>, \no sound could he hear/ c3  
 1116 But ... great] <Had stung his> \But his own/heart a beating, and some c3  
 1117 quick,] quick c3  
 1118 And ... harp] <Breathless> and from his \random smitten/ harp <a sound> c3  
 1119 A ... swift] <Smitten at random> A strange discordant noise <still on>\swift/ c3  
 1119 noise:] <music> \noise/ c4  
 1120 silent,] silent c3  
 1121 dreadful] strange & c3  
 1122 oppress;] oppress c3  
 1123 cried,] cried c3  
 1124 O hearken] <I know not> \O hearken/ c3  
 1124 me!] me c3  
 1125 Hearken ... thou] <Or if they mock us as yet but howsoe I er> Hearken lest as I faint & fear  
 thou <sh> c3  
 1126 fear,] fear c3  
 1127 – O hearken sweet – ] a hearken sweet c3; [folio 37 c4]  
 1129 and] & c3  
 1129 am] am<d> c4  
 1129 thine: we lie,] thine we lie c3  
 1130 twain, at home] twain \at home/ c3  
 1131 moon-litten,] moon litten c3  
 1132 rustling,] rustling c3; -rustling, CW  
 1133 body, ... down] body and thy arms dropped down, c3

1135 Away from me, O sweet, mine own, mine own!  
Doubtful e'en now with thy last waking shame."

Therewith from lips and harp the sweet song came.

O my love how could it be  
But summer must be brought to me  
Brought to the world by thy full love?  
1140 Long within thee did it move,  
Move and bud and change and grow,  
Till it wraps me wholly now,  
And I turn from thee a while  
Its o'er sweetness to beguile  
1145 With a little thought of rest.

Ah me have I gained the best,  
Have I no more to desire  
No more hope to vex and tire  
No more fear to sicken me.  
1150 Nought but the full gift of thee,  
All my soul to satisfy.

1134 Away ... own!] Thy lovely hands O sweet mine own mine own *c3*  
1135 e'en now with] belike with *c3*  
1135 shame."] shame – *c3*  
1136 Therewith] Then *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
1136 harp] harm *c3*  
1136 came.] came – *c3*  
1137 O my love] O My love, *CW*  
1139 love,] love *c3*  
1140 move,] move *c3*  
1141 grow, ] grow *c3*  
1142 Till] <B> Till *c3*  
1142 now,] now *c3*  
1144 o'er sweetness] oer sweetness *c3*; o'er-sweetness *CW*  
1145 rest.] rest *c3*  
1146 Ah me] [folio 12 recto *c3*]; Ah me, *CW*  
1146 best,] best *c3*  
1149 No more] No <f>\m/ore *c3*  
1149 me,] me – *c3*  
1150 Nought ... full] But this full strange *c3*  
1151 All] (All *c3*  
1151 satisfy.] satisfy – *c3*

Ah sweet, lest my longing die  
 Een a moment, rise and come,  
 For the roses of our horne,  
 1155 For the rose and lily here,  
 Are too sweet for us to bear  
 Let us wander through the wood  
 Till a little rest seem good  
 To our weary limbs, till we  
 1160 As the eve dies silently  
 Neath the chestnut boughs are laid,  
 Faint with love but not downweighted  
 By the summer's restlessness,  
 Wearied but most fain to bless  
 1165 Pity-laden summer, sad  
 With the hope the spring once had.

1152-53 Ah ... come,] Ah if longing ere can die  
 With fulfilling of all bliss  
 Then the love that no lips kiss  
 Do I desire the love that lies  
 Alone enwrapped in mysteries  
 Too <sweet> \deep/ to solve to sweet to break  
 Knowing not how to touch or take  
 If the prize lay cast adown  
 Won at last and all its<h> own  
 Life grown a dream dream grown to be  
 Lonely lived reality  
 Gain in loss and joy in pain  
 Poor love that is not loved again –  
 X (Pity laden summer sa<id>\d/  
 With the hope the spring once had)  
 Is thy sweetness come to this  
 That amid all wealth of bliss  
 <O> \Trust/ turned about <the> \to/ praise  
 The wanderer of the barren ways)  
 \O sweet lest my longing die/  
 <O my love a> \In this midday/ rise & come c3

1153 Een] E'en *CW*

1155 here,] here c3 *CW*

1156 bear] bear. *CW*

1159 limbs, till we] limbs; <and I> till we c3; limbs, till we, *CW*

1160 As] <At thy feet my love may lie> As c3

1160 silently] silently, *CW*

1161 laid.] laid c3 *CW*

1162 but not downweighted] <belike> but not down weighed c3

1163 restlessness.] restlessness c3

1165-66 Pity ... had.] X [An X indicates that the parenthetical lines from the passage which corresponds with lines 1151-52 belong here c3. ]

He broke his song off therewithal; but vain  
 His hurrying feet seemed the sweet end to gain  
 How so he hastened: in his ears there grew  
 1170 Noises of things that for nought real he knew:  
 Noises of lands lonely of men, but full  
 Of uncouth things; the heavy sound and dull  
 Of earth cast unto earth, the swallowing sea  
 Changing to roaring fire presently;  
 1175 Whining of strange beasts, driving of the rain  
 Against the lone hall's rattling window-pane;  
 Low moaning of the wind that was not there  
 Swift wings of pigeons that the heavy air  
 Might never nourish: things known that did change  
 1180 E'en in their midst to things unknown and strange,  
 Till his brain gan to reel, and soon he thought,  
 How if to dreamlike hearing there were brought

1167 therewithal; but] therewithal <some pain in>\but/ c3  
 1168 His] He <seemed> <\hastened/> His c3  
 1169 How so he hastened:] Yet still he hastened c3  
 1170 for ... know:] dreamed & nought he knew c3  
 1170 for &] \for/ c4  
 1171 of lands] <#>\o/f lands c4  
 1171 men,] men c3  
 1172 things;] things c3  
 1172 and] & c3  
 1173 unto] onto c3  
 1174 presently;] presently c3  
 1175 beasts,] beasts c3  
 1176 hall's] halls c3  
 1176 window pane;] window pane c3; window-pane; CW  
 1177 Low] <And>\low/ c3  
 1177 there] there, CW  
 1178 wings] flight c3  
 1178 the] that c3  
 1178 air] a<re>\ir/ c4  
 1179 nourish: things known] nourish, known things c3  
 1180 E'en] Een c3  
 1180 things ... strange,] unknown things and strange c3  
 1181 gan to reel,] gan to reel c3; gan to reel, CW  
 1181 thought,] thought c3  
 1182 hearing] hearing <dreaml> c3

The sight of dreams? And even therewithal  
 It seemed to him a crowd his name did call  
 1185 In moaning unison, that to shriek  
 Was growing, when the darkness seemed to break,  
 And once more through the shadowless strange day  
 Came thronging forth that crowd of sorrows grey,  
 Silent, slow-moving staring all at him;  
 1190 Thereat with sickened heart, and tottering limb  
 He stayed and hid his eyes a while to cry;  
 "O if they mocked me not, and thou art nigh,  
 Help with thy love thy patience O my sweet,  
 To take these unseen fetters from my feet  
 1195 And pierce this wall of dreams, that I may move.  
 O help me yet, dear spirit of my love,  
 Help me Eurydice;"  
 Sweet was the name

1183 dreams? And] dreams and *c3*  
 1185 In moaning unison,] In <n> moaning unison *c3*  
 1185 to] to a *c3*  
 1186 growing,] growing *c3*  
 1186 break,] break *c3*  
 1188 sorrows grey,] shadows grey *c3*  
 1189 Silent, slow-moving] Silent slow moving *c3*; Silent, slow-moving, *CW*  
 1189 him;] him *c3*  
 1190 sickened heart,] sickening heart *c3*; [folio 39 *c4*]  
 1190 limb] limb – *c3*; limb, *CW*  
 1191 a ... cry;] and <cried> gan to cry *c3*; a while to cry: *CW*  
 1192 "O] O *c3*  
 1192 not, and thou] not and thou<gh> *c3*  
 1193 love thy patience] love, thy patience, *CW*  
 1193 sweet,] sweet *c3*; sweet, <1> *c4*  
 1195 And] And<m> *c 3*  
 1195 dreams,] dreams *c3*  
 1196 yet, dear] yet sweet *c3*; <sweet>\dear/ *c4*  
 1196 love,] love. *c3*  
 1197 me Eurydice!"] me Eurydice *c3*; me, Eurydice!" *CW*  
 1197 Sweet] sweet *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]

Upon his lips, and over him there came  
 A feeling as of rest: the tumult sank,  
 1200 And when, with eyes from that wild dream that shrank,  
 He gazed again, empty the dim dusk was,  
 And onward once again he gan to pass.  
 Yet in a while, when nothing changed he saw  
 The wood, then terror 'gan again to draw  
 1205 About him; he felt caged prisoned there,  
 And scarce his love and longing now seemed fair,  
 And time was dead, and he left all alone  
 Wandering through space where nothing might be won  
 By will or strength of courage: yet withal  
 1210 The old wont of song upon his heart did fall  
 And with the last shred left of hope did blend,  
 As wearily and slowly he did wend  
 On through the eyeless dusk, and once again  
 The harp-strings wailed in answer to his pain.  
  
 1215 O Love, how the dying year

1198 lips, ] lips *c3* A] A<n> *c3*  
 1199 rest:] rest, *c3*  
 1199 sank, ] sank *c3*  
 1200 And when,] And when *c3*; And<,> when, *c4*  
 1200 shrank,] shrank *c3*  
 1201 again,] again *c3*  
 1201 was,] was *c3*  
 1202 gan to pass.] gan to pass *c3* [Line drawn after line 1201 *c3*]; 'gan to pass. *CW*  
 1203 Yet] But *c3*  
 1203 while,] while *c3*  
 1204 wood,] wood *c3*  
 1204 'gan] gan *c3*  
 1205 him;] him *c3*  
 1205 caged] caged & *c3*; caged, *CW*  
 1205 there,] there *c3*  
 1206 fair, ] fair *c3*  
 1207 dead, ] dead *c3*  
 1209 courage:] courage *c3*  
 1210 wont] live *c3*  
 1211 blend,] blend *c3*  
 1212 and] & *c3*  
 1212 wend] wend on *c3*  
 1214 harp-strings] harp strings *c3*  
 1215 O Love,] <Strange love for us twain to stand Silent hand dropped down from hand> O  
 love *c3* [Indented *c3*]; O LOVE, *CW*

Love amid its death doth bear –  
 – Death, for though the younglings play  
 On the green patch by the way,  
 Through the blue-clad maidens sing  
 1220 O'er the end of vintaging;  
 Though to then no pain is love  
 But a dear joy that shall move  
 Heaven and earth to do their will;  
 Yet hangs death above us still;  
 1225 And no hope of further gain,  
 But foreboding of a pain  
 But the dread of surefoot fate  
 Makes thine eyes so passionate  
 Makes thy hands so fain to cling.  
  
 1230 Harking sweet love, how they sing,  
 And their song is prayer and praise  
 To the givers of good days,  
 Though we twain sit all alone  
 Thinking how that all things won  
 1235 Are as nought and nought and nought

1216 bear – ] bear *c3*  
 1217 – Death ... the] Though the merry *c3*  
 1218 way,] way *c3*  
 1219 Through] though *c3* *CW*  
 1219 blue-clad] blue clad *c3*  
 1220 O'er] oer *c3*  
 1220 vintaging,] vintaging *c3*  
 1221 Though] And *c3*  
 1222 shall] doth *c3*; [folio 40 *c4*]  
 1223 will,] will, *c3*  
 1224 hangs] is *c3*  
 1224 still,] still *c3*; still, *CW*  
 1225 gain, ] gain *c3*  
 1227 surefoot] coming *c3*  
 1229 thy] thine *c3*  
 1229 farn to] cling and *c3*  
 1230 Harking sweet love,] Hearken \sweet love/ *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
 1231 prayer and] <ever> prayer & *c3*  
 1232 days,] days *c3* [folio 13 recto *c3*]  
 1233 twain] two *c3*  
 1234 won] won <n> *c3*  
 135 and] & *c3*

To the joy our fresh love brought  
When all fear of change was dead.

O my love, turn not thine head  
For they laugh amid their song,  
1240 And they deem themselves so strong,  
That if ever they shall cry  
From the midst of misery  
There is that shall help their need.

O my love, look not, nor heed  
1245 For they deem themselves divine,  
And shall curse those eyes of thine  
Where death gathers now, and grows  
Thy passion to its fainting close.

On me, look awhile on me!  
1250 And if nought thine eyes can see,  
And if nought thy breast can feel  
For the sickness that doth steal  
Oer desire that was thine heart,  
Yet not all alone thou art  
1255 For my lips and hands are nigh,

1236 the] the <y> c4

1236 brought] bought c3 CW

1237 dead.] dead c3

1238 love,] love c3 [No new verse paragraph c3]

1238 head] head, CW

1240 deem themselves] deem their joy c3; deem <selves> \themselves/ c4

1243 there ... need.] They have help at their need – c3

1244 love,] love c3 [No new verse paragraph c3]

1244 not, nor heed] not nor <n>\h/eed c3

1245 divine,] divine c3

1246 curse] hate c3

1247 gathers now] gathers c3

1248 Thy] All thy c3

1248 its fainting] its c3

1249 me,] me me c3 [No new verse paragraph c3]

1249 me!] me c3

1250 see,] see c3

1252 doth] <s> \d/oth c3; [folio 41 c4]

1253 Oer] O'er CW

1253 desire] the pain c3

1253 heart,] heart c3

1254 not] <y> \n/ot c3

1254 art] art, CW

1255 my lips and] my lips & c3

1255 nigh,] nigh c3

And I fail and faint and die  
As thou diest, O my sweet

Our souls meet, and our loves meet,  
And at last we know for sure  
1260 What shall change and what endure.

O my love look down and see  
What they deem felicity!  
Look down on the autumn earth  
And their terror-girded mirth;  
1265 Speak with words that have no name  
All thy love and pity and shame!

With a wild cry he dropped his harp a down  
Scarce knowing what a change in him was grown,  
He smote his hands together, and ran on  
1270 As though he deemed at last the end nigh won,  
For far away betwixt the trees gan gleam  
A feeble light, that verily did seem  
To be the day:

“O me, Eurydice,  
Be swift,” he cried, “to follow after me,  
1275 For in the world, if nowhere else love lives,

1256 and faint and] & faint & c3

1257 diest, ... sweet.] diest O my sweet c3; diest, <as> \O/ my sweet. c4

1258 Our ... meet,] And our souls and our loves do meet c3

1258 meet] meet, CW

1260 change ... endure.] fail & what endure c3

1261 and] & c3

1262 deem felicity!] name felicity c3

1264 terror-girded mirth;] pleasure girded c3

1266 and ... shame!] & pity & shame – c3

1267 wild] strange c3

1267 harp a down] har<d>\p/ adown c3; harp down CW

1268 a change] new hope c3

1268 grown,] grown c3

1269 together,] together c3

1270 though ... won,] one who<th>\s/eeth the scarce hoped ending won c3; though he  
deemed <indeed> \at last/ the end <well> \nigh/ won, c4

1271 gan] did c3; <did> \gan/ c4; 'gan CW

1272 seem] dream c3

1273 day: ... Eurydice, ] day light O Eurydice c3 [No new verse paragraph c3]

1274 swift, “ ... me, ] swift be swift he cried to follow me c3

1275 world,] world c3

1275 else love lives,] else love lives c3; else, love lives, CW

And with the very best of all he gives  
Shall we be glad, if for a little space.  
O the fair earth, my sweet, the joyous place,  
Filled with the pleasure of thy loveliness  
1280 New-born at last my weary eyes to bless!"

No answer to his breathless cry there came  
Whatso he hoped; again he cried her name,  
And the light broadened, as his swift feet drew  
On toward it, until breathless, dazed, he knew  
1285 The goal anigh, but on he staggered still:  
The trees grew thinner, the world's light did fill  
His eyes, his heart: yet e'en with all so won  
The last sick fear and horror fell upon  
His quivering soul – was all a dream, drawn forth  
1290 From is great grief that the Gods held no worth  
More than anothers?

Sick and faint he stood

- 1277 glad,] glad *c3*  
1277space,] space *c3*  
1278 earth, my sweet,] earth my sweet *c3*  
1278 place,] place *c3*; place <!>\,/ *c4*  
1280 New-born] New born *c3*  
1280 bless!"] bless *c3*  
1282 hoped; ... name,] hoped, yet onward did he pass *c3*; [folio 42 *c4*]  
1283 broadened,] broadened *c3* [folio 13 verso *c3*]  
1284 it,] it *c3*  
1284 breathless, dazed,] trembling now *c3*  
1285 anigh,] nigh gain *c3*  
1285 still:] still *c3*  
1286 thinner,] thin *c3*  
1286 world's] worlds grey *c3*  
1287 eyes, ... e'en] eyes his heart yet een *c3*  
1287 so] nigh *c3*  
1288 The last] <A>\Th/e <a> \la/st *c3*  
1289 – was ... forth] was all a dream drawn forth *c3*; – was, <&> drawn forth <,> *c4*  
1289 – was] – Was *CW*  
1290 no] nought *c3*  
1291 anothers? Sick] anothers sick *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
1291 anothers?] another's *CW*

Now on the very border of the wood,  
 And strove to think and strove to heed & see:  
 Without the winter wind sang mournfully  
 1295 About the lonely place, and the light snow  
 Was driven round about & to and fro,  
 Veiling the sky and earth: he gasped for breath  
 For all seemed failing:

“O thou bitter Death,”

He cried, “and shall I die, and shall she live,  
 1300 Is then all the gift that thou wilt give,  
 Her life for my life?”

Still he faced the world

And heard no sound but of the wind that hurled  
 The white snow up and on; till suddenly  
 Rigid and stark he grew, and shrieked;

“A lie,

1305 A lie! she never followed me, but dwells  
 Down in the dark depths whereof no tongue tells.”  
 Then with a dreadful face slowly he turned  
 Unto the wood, and through the dark there burned  
 A sudden white light, pure, that blinded not.

1292 Now] Een *c3*  
 1292 wood,] wood *c3*  
 1293 strove to] strove *c3*  
 1293 & see:] & see *c3*; and see. *CW*  
 1295 place, and] place & *c3*  
 1296 & to and fro] & to and f<ore>\ro/ *c3*; and to and fro *CW*  
 1297 earth: he gasped] earth – he g<r>asped *c3*  
 1298 For all] All things *c3*  
 1298 failing: “O] failing O *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
 1298 Death,]” death *c3*  
 1299 cried ... live,] cried <at last>: am I to die & she to live *c3*  
 1300 Is] Is [this] *CW*  
 1300 give, ] give *c3*  
 1301 for my life?”] without mine? *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
 1302 of the wind] the north wind *c3*  
 1303 and on; till] & on then *c3*  
 1304 Rigid and] & *c3*  
 1304 grew, ... lie,] grew & cried A lie *c3*  
 1304 shrieked,] shrieked: *CW*  
 1305 lie!] lie *c3*  
 1305 me,] me *c3*  
 1306 Down in] Down *c3*  
 1306 tells.”] tells – *c3*  
 1307 dreadful face] dreadful *c3*  
 1308 wood.] wood *c3*  
 1308 Unto the] its *c3*  
 1309 light, pure,] light pure *c3*  
 1309 not,] not *c3*

1310 And for an instant all was well forgot  
 But very love; for through the midst of it  
 His mortal eyes beheld her body flit,  
 Yea coming toward him: her remembered eyes  
 Gazing upon him in no other wise  
 1315 Then when upon the earth in some fair wood  
 Their feet drew each to each and all was good.  
  
 So was it for a space no man may name  
 Or measure; then a dreadful darkens came  
 Oer all things, such a sickening void as though  
 1320 His feet alone must wander to and fro  
 About a wide waste world made all in vain,  
 The very body of the deathless pain  
 Immeasurable, that was himself, his soul.  
 He moved and knew it not; the wind did roll  
 1325 The snowflakes greater grown still o'er & o'er,  
 And in the close set beech-trees did it roar,  
 As on the white world went the dusk adown  
 Mid cold and clamour: but o'er him was thrown

1311 love;] love *c3*  
 1312 flit, ] flit *c3*; [folio 43 *c4*]  
 1313 him:] him *c3*  
 1315 Then] Than *c3*  
 1315 in some fair] amidst the *c3*  
 1316 and] & *c3*  
 1316 good. ] good *c3*  
 1317 So] [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
 1318 measure;] count & *c3*  
 1319 Oer] O'er *CW*  
 1319 things,] things *c3*  
 1319 a sickening] a\n awful/ *c3*  
 1320 must] <sh\m/ust *c3*  
 1321 About ... world] through a waste Godless wor\l/d *c3*  
 1321 rain,] rain *c3*  
 1322 The ... of] To be the body to *c3*  
 1323 Immeasurable, that] Immeasurable that *c3*; \Immeasurable,/That *c4*  
 1323 himself, his soul.] himself his soul *c3*  
 1324 and] & *c3*  
 1324 not;] not *c3*  
 1325 snowflakes] snow-flakes *c3*  
 1325 o'er & o'er] oer and oer *c3*; o'er and o'er *CW*  
 1326 close set beech-trees] close set beach trees *c3*; close-set beach-trees *CW*  
 1326 roar,] roar *c3*  
 1327 As ] And <a11> *c3*  
 1327 white ... dusk] white<ning> would twilight fell *c3*  
 1328 clamour: but o'er] clamour but oer

1330 The dreadful silence of the Gods, as he  
Went through he unheeding world most listlessly,  
With heart too dead to thing of life or death  
Which was the best, or why he yet drew breath

1329 The dreadful] Pall like the *c3*

1329 Gods,] Gods *c3*

1330 unheeding world most] world regained all *c3*

1331 death,] death, *CW*

1332 best,] best *c3*

1332 breath] breath – *c3*; [Twelve blank lines left at the bottom of folio *c4*]; breath. *CW*; [No correspondence for the following lines from folio 14 recto and part of verso of *c3*:]

*l c3* Now in what wise the Gods who thus did give  
So much, and took so much kept him alive  
The tale <s> tells not but men of old did say  
That when the winter tide was passed away  
5 Unto the desolate place that was his home  
Once again did the lone Orpheus come  
Changed more than It – timeless & songless now  
<With> Grey haired <and> with hollow cheeks and furrowed brow  
And on<ce> \a morn/ as through the woods a maiden went  
10 <Alone one> \Alone/ <A ma> she saw a man with head down bent  
Standing beneath an oak grown thich with June  
And piteous with the wood doves moaning tune  
Faltered her feet when she beheld the man  
Because his hair was matted his face wan  
15 His raiment wild and strange X but as she stayed  
And trembled at the first too much afraid  
To flee or go on the man raised his face  
And on the soft grey eyes of her gan gaze  
Then a great pity through her fear there came  
20 For spite of all she knew him for the same  
Who but the past year oft would sit & sing  
< There > in the < temple > \holy / close while youth & maiden  
Foot unto foot a dancing – like a God

[Two lines written in the left margin may belong here or may belong where the X is marked eight lines above:] \That of the wood folk he mighter who brought  
Great ill on men at whiles/

25 There would he sit and take with smiling mouth<s>  
Kisses of maidens fain to quench the drouth  
<Of sweet and> bitter <love> \sweet desire/ that burned them then  
To be loved of that most sweet of men  
Yea she herself had memory of the tide  
When <#>\a/s she crept full softly to his his side  
30 And kissed the wonder waking hand--but now  
With dreadful eyes from neath his haggard brow  
He glared upon her till all faint she knew  
Then from his lips at last did there out break  
Startling the wild wood things a dreadful shriek  
35 And swift he fled away as one who fears  
To hear pursueing footsteps fell his ears  
Then trembling full of pity forth she went  
Upon the way whereon she wa<n>\s/ intent –  
But that same autumn tide when folk  
40 With all the joyous streams their vats had had  
Along the banks of wooded Hebrus strayed  
Damsels of Bacchus making <a>\f/awns afraid  
<T> \W/ith their wild joy mad with youth & wine  
And seeing all the world glad and devine  
45 Patient of nought dull were they at that tide  
As through the berried woods they wandered wide  
Losing the river here where swift it turned  
Away from some steep hill – then were it burned  
Wide in the sun betwixt green banks and low

50 Regaining it, so onward did they go  
And still the wild wood tangles stayed them not  
The woodland pools called not their limbs oer hot  
And looser grew their hair with ivy crowned  
And less their \hurt/ feet felt the uneven grow

[folio 14 verso c3:]

55 Wider their raiment floated in the wind  
Bolder their limbs a##ting air to find  
So through a hazel thicket at the last  
Wildly with raiment torn aside they passed  
<A> \O/n to a green place sloping <do> toward the stream

60 And in the sleepy sunlight then did gleam  
Glitter attire white flesh and shiny hair  
Bejewelled feet great gems on shoulders <fair> bare  
Gold-plated vine wreathed stones tossed wildly up  
With <##>\he/re & there a thin beat jeweled cup

65 \Thin/ Raiment slipped adown or floating out  
From eager limbs as with their maddening shout  
Adown the slopes unto the ford they ran;  
Then from the stream side slowly turned a man

[Cf. c4 *Alternative Ending* lines 1-40 with the following lines of c3:]

70 And faced them pale & gaunt and wild  
With eyes and lips that seemed as neer they smiled  
Or changed and rude skin clouded foul attire ////J  
He looked round with no wonder as they came  
Dancing about him calling on the <m>\na/me  
75 Of him who moved them till they ringed him round  
And closed about him then a dreadful sound  
Burst from his lips of hate & fear and scorn  
And therewithal across the rout was born  
A curse on Gods & women, and the lord  
80 Who ruled that route unseen moved by that word  
As tells the tale cast rage into their hearts  
Their wild brows scowled upon his visage pale  
As <silent> round \about/ him for a while they stood  
In sudden silence <neither sweet nor> \boding nothing good/ good

85 Then rose in hands too eager mad to feel  
The golden staves, and round gan surge and reel  
The <maddened> crowd all maddened by blind god like hate  
Until the autumn sun sank over late  
And in the river did the pale moon gleam

90 And them as waking a fevered dream  
They drew back trembling and began to stare  
Each upon each and on a thing laid there  
<Hopeless> Moveless and dead, then some beside him knelt  
Sighing & weak as sick folk and some felt  
95 His wasted hands, and \weeping/ some <his dear hand> upraised  
<Weeping> His head w\h/erefrom his fixed and sad eyes gazed  
Reproachfully upon <h>\th/em as to s<l>ay  
The very love chased from the world has chased away  
Yet would not let live lonely wondering –

100 How shall ye live without this precious thing –  
Then gan low wailing round about to be  
And in a while they raised him tenderly  
And for his corpse a bier of boughs they wove  
And slowly <through> to the golden house of love

105 Bore through the solemn shadows of the night  
Orpheus the singer called the world delight  
Who\se spirit/ strove with Gods and had prevailed  
But that the flesh looked back ward once & failed

[These last 70-108 lines of folio 14 verso c3 correspond with the 40 lines of the Alternate ending of c4.]

What fell to him after that last sad sight  
 How shall I say? it may be that cold night  
 1335 More than most nights of winter was fulfilled  
 With mournful aimless dreams; that the morn, stilled  
 By iron frost, white world, and sky of grey,  
 Had more of blank despair than een such day  
 Will often have – that on his weary bed  
 1340 The hopeless lover lifted up his head  
 To hearken, and a strange wild thrill did cross  
 His dreary oft-told tale of endless loss  
 And waning hope, as the wind rushing by  
 Seemed in the breast of it to bear a cry  
 1345 That well nigh shaped itself into a name,  
 A name unknown: until there grew a shame  
 Of his own lonely grief within his heart  
 And to that cry he cried to have a part  
 In some more godlike sorrow than the days

1333 What] [folio 15 recto; lines of folio 14 recto & verso of *c3* not included in *c4*]; [folio 44  
 unpaginated *c4*]  
 1334 say? .. cold] say m<or>\ay/ <c>h of that cold long *c3*  
 1335 then most] that <t>\n/ the *c3*  
 1336 dreams;] <th>\d/reams *c3*  
 1336 morn.] morn *c3*  
 1337 frost.] frost <hope> *c3*  
 1337 and] & *c3*  
 1337 grey, ] grey *c3*  
 1338 blank] strange *c3*  
 1338 een] e'en *CW*  
 1339 have – ] have: <that as with sick heart tossed \<the lover tossed>/ <the hopeless lover> <thrust>  
 on his weary bed> <That<f> following night he must lift up his head> *c3*  
 1340 head] head <to>\that on his weary bed/ *c3*  
 1341 thrill] \thrill/ <cry> *c4*  
 1342 oft ... endless] tale of ne<ver>\er/ returning *c3*; \oft-told/ tale of endless *c4*  
 1343 hope,] hope *c3*  
 1345 name.] name *c3*  
 1347 A ... grew] He knew not what – until the<ir>\re/ should grow *c3*  
 1348 to that] <he should> \to that/ *c3*  
 1348 cried] cr<av> ied *c3*  
 1349 In] <Of> In *c4*  
 1349 godlike] god-like *CW*

1350 Shed dully on his petty tangled ways –  
 I know not I – but know as the years grew  
 Some rumour of the tale twixt false and true  
 Did reach men's hearts, whereof it came that some  
 Told of sad shapes haunting that Thracian home,  
 1355 Sad voices in the chestnut-woods about.  
 And some that when the night held most of doubt  
 And terror round the black Laconian wood,  
 When heaviest the dark oer it did brood,  
 When wildest roared the wind about its trees,  
 1360 When most the moonlight made ill images  
 Of the o'erhanging boughs about its brink  
 And to its narrowest the vexed stream did shrink –  
 – That at such tides, amid the wind heard shrill,  
 Cleaving the dark like threat of godsent ill,  
 1365 Low in the hush of the dread summer night  
 The name of that dead love that lost delight

1348 cried] cr<av> ie/d c3  
 1349 In] <Of> In/ c4  
 1349 godlike] god-like CW  
 1350 Shed dully on] Bore to wrap round c3  
 1351 not I – ] not, c3; not, I – CW  
 1351 years] days c3  
 1352 tale ... and] tale, half false half c3  
 1353 men's hearts,] mens hearts c3  
 1354 home,] home c3  
 1355 Sad] Strange c3  
 1355 chestnut-woods about.] chestnut woods about c3  
 1356 that ... of] said that when most the night held c3  
 1357 round the] \round/ that c3  
 1357 wood,] wood c3  
 1358 When] <And Tenaruss highest peak> When c3  
 1358 oer] o'er CW  
 1358 brood,] brood c3  
 1359 When ... wind] And wildest <roared about> \the wind roared/ c3  
 1360 ill] wild c3  
 1361 o'erhanging] oer hanging c3  
 1362 shrink – ] shrink c3  
 1363 – That] That CW  
 1363 tides,] tides c3  
 1363 shrill,] shrill c3  
 1364 like] li<gh>\ke/ c3  
 1364 godsent] god sent c3; god-sent CW  
 1364 ill,] ill c3  
 1365 Low] Lo<ve>\w/ c3  
 1366 love] love, c3 CW; [folio 45 unpaginated c4]

Would come upon the world--Eurydice  
What hideth so thy hands thine eyes from me? –

- 1370 But the world wore through years of good & bad  
And tales that less of pity in them had,  
Or more of hope, of Orpheus men 'gan tell:  
Such as how death at last to him befell  
Long after this: for he was slain they said  
By the God-maddened bands that Bacchus led  
1375 Adown the banks of Hebrus: other some  
Say that the tuneful muses took him home,  
That on the cloud-hid steep of Helicon  
From out the world's grief a calm life he won  
Nothing forgotten of this feverish pain  
1380 Nothing regretted, but all spent and vain,  
And he not glad nor grieved, but God indeed.  
Ah let such go their ways, his earthly need  
Ye know; his earthly longing and defeat.  
Thank him low-voiced that even this is sweet  
1385 Unto our dying hearts that needs must gain  
A little hope from pity and from pain.

- 1367 – Eurydice] Eurydice *c3*; – Eurydice, *CW*  
1368 thine] & *c3*  
1368 me? – ] me – *c3*; me. *CW*  
1369 the ... of] oer the world years passed twixt *c3*; <through its years> \the world more/ through  
years of *c4*  
1369 & bad] and bad, *CW*  
1370 had,] had *c3*  
1371 Or ... hope,] And more hope *c3*  
1371 'gan tell:] gan tell *c3*  
1372 how death at] <the> \how/ death on him \at/ *c3* [folio 15 verso *c3*]  
1373 this: ... was] that<last> sad parting – <at# the hands> *c3*; <that sad parting> \this: for he was/ *c4*  
1373 slain] slain, *CW*  
1373 said] said, *c3 CW*  
1374 By the God-maddened] <Of the blind God possessed unpitying bands> By God maddened *c3*  
1375 Hebrus: other] Hebrus – o<r>ther *c3*  
1376 home,] home *c3*  
1377 That ... cloud-hid] And there upon the *c3*  
1378 out the world's] \out/ the worlds *c3*  
1378 won] won, *CW*  
1379-80 Nothing ... vain] [No corresponding lines *c3*]  
1379 pain] pain, *CW*  
1381 And ... indeed] Nor glad nor sorry but a God indeed *c3*  
1382 ways,] ways *c3* [No new verse paragraph *c3*]  
1383 know,] know, *c3*  
1383 defeat.] defeat *c3*  
1384 low-voiced] low voiced *c3*  
1386 and from pain.] & from pain – *c3* [Line drawn beneath line 1385 *c3*]; [Eleven blank lines  
beneath line 1386 *c4*]

[Alternative ending *c4*]

And faced them, pale and gaunt & wild  
With eyes and lips that seemed as ne'er they smiled  
Or changed, and rude skin-clouded foul attire,  
Bright flamed their eyes as they beheld him nigher,  
5 But with no wonder looked he, as they came  
Dancing about him, calling on the name  
Of him who moved them; till they ringed him round  
And closed upon him: then a dreadful sound  
Burst from his lips of hate & fear & scorn,  
10 And therewithal across the rout was born  
A curse on Gods and women –

Then the lord

Who unseen ruled their hearts, moved by the word  
Cast rage into their hearts as tells the tale  
15 Their changed eyes scowled upon his visage pale  
As round about him a short space they stood  
In sudden silence boding nothing good:  
Then rose in hands too eager mad to feel  
The golden staves and round gan surge & reel  
20 That crowd made blind & mad by God sent hate;  
Until the autumn sun sank overlate,  
And in the river did the pale moon gleam;  
And then as waking from a fevered dream  
They drew back trembling, and began to stare  
25 Each upon each, and on the thing laid there  
Moveless and dead; then some beside him knelt,  
Sighing, and weak as sick folk, and some felt  
His wasted hands, and weeping some upraised  
His once loved head wherefrom the sad eyes gazed  
30 Reproachfully upon them, as to say;  
'The very Love, chased from the World away  
Ye would not let live, lonely wandering;  
How shall ye live without this precious thing?'

Then gan loud wailing round about to be,  
35 And in a while they raised him tenderly  
And for his corpse a bier of boughs they wove  
And slowly to the golden House of Love  
Bore through the solemn of the night  
Orpheus the singer, once the World's Delight,  
40 Whose spirit strove with Gods, & had prevailed  
But that the flesh looked backward once & failed

1 pale] <pale>\pale/ [folio 46 *c4*]

1 wild] <wain> \wild/

5 looked he,] <did he gaze> \looked he,/

8 upon] <ab out>\up on/

12 moved] <stirred>\moved/

33 Then] [folio 47]

38 once] <called> \once/

[c1: Fragment of the unfinished Orpheus]

O long ago, and long ago, they say  
Orpheus the singer at the end of day,  
Nigh to the gate of his own close of flowers,  
Stood, wearied with the thronged and slow-foot hours;  
5 Sore wearied, as with head hung down, he heard  
The first notes of the brown slim-throated bird  
Mix with departing voice of maid and man,  
And rustle of the hedge-rows as they ran,  
That joyous company, from rose to rose:  
10 Sore wearied as the light wind swept the close  
Yet rustled something more than leaves or grass;  
Wearied and faint, as a half-sigh did pass  
His ears confused that was not of the wind:  
Weak, sick with love, as now his eyes, half-blind,  
15 Yet not with sunset saw her standing there,  
Alone and his after the toil and care;

0.1 [Fragment ... Orpheus] [Note by May Morris c1]

1 ago, ... ago,] ago and long ago c1  
2 at ... day,] stood at end of day c1  
3 flowers,] flowers c1  
4 Stood,] <Sore>\Stood/ c1  
4 slow-foot hours;] slow foot hours c1  
5 Sore wearied,] <Sore wearied shame faced as his eyes he turned  
<And smooth young> cheeks <with more than> \that more than with the sunset  
buried/> Sore wearied c1  
5 down,] down c1  
6 brown slim-] slim brown c1  
7 Mix] Mixed c1  
7 and man,] & man c1  
9 company,] company c1  
9 rose,] rose c1  
10 as] as <the wide> c1; a<n>\s/ c2  
10 close] <#> close. c1  
11 Yet] <T>\Y/et c1  
11 grass;] grass c1  
12 faint,] faint c1  
12 pass] pass, c1  
13 His] <That the wind made not> His c1  
13 that] <not> that c1  
13 wind:] wind c1  
14 Weak, ... love,] Weak sick with love c1  
14 eyes, half-blind,] eyes half blind c1  
15 saw] saw <th> c1  
15 there,] there c1  
16 care:] care c1

Alone and his if but a little while!  
 They drew anigh, their lips forgot to smile;  
 They eyes forgot to weep, their palms knew not  
 20 If air or fire within them they had got;  
 Until – ah me! – breast unto breast they clung  
 So long so long! high up the white moon hung,  
 From out the pear-tree sang the nightingale;  
 The thin stream trickling down the grassy vale  
 25 Found voice in the still eve; the shepherd's call  
 Was heard from far, by night made musical,  
 And rustle of the leaves was round about,  
 And night grew cold, and all the stars were out  
 When next twixt face and face the scented wind  
 30 A little room to play about could find:  
 How long a space of the worlds life! – No no;  
 So short so short, when set against the woe  
 Of hungry lips cold cheeks and unkissed eyes  
 That een this this and this ne'er satisfies!  
  
 35 Now blind and trembling side by side a space  
 They wandered down the green path of the place  
 Her knee brushed down the bending lilies there  
 Scattering their golden dust and on her hair

17 but ... while!] for a little while *c1*  
 18 anigh,] anigh *c1* [No indentation *c1*]  
 18 smile;] smile *c1*  
 19 They] their *c1*  
 20 air or fire] fire or air *c1*  
 20 got;] got *c1*  
 21 Until – ah me! – ] And now ah me *c1*  
 22 So ... long!] Who knows how long – *c1*; <Who knows how> \So long so/ long! *c2*  
 22 hung,] hung *c1*  
 23 pear-tree] pear tree *c1*; <p> pear-tree *c2*  
 23 nightingale;] nightingale *c1*  
 25 eve; ... call] eve, <and \far/ cries of men> \and distant call/ *c1*  
 26 Was ... far,] <Made muse> Of <maid & man> \was heard afar/ *c1*  
 27 about,] <them when about> \about/ *c1*; [folio 2 *c2*]  
 28 cold, ... were] cold and many a star was *c1*  
 29 twixt] tween *c1*  
 30 room] space *c1*  
 30 find:] find – *c1*  
 31-34 How ... satisfies!] [No corresponding lines *c1*]  
 32 So short] <How was> \<T>\S/o \short/ *c2*  
 35 Now ... trembling] Then trembling *c1*  
 36 down ... of the] slowly down the grassy *c1*  
 37-44 Her ... me!] [No corresponding lines *c1*]

Fell the last apple-blossoms of the May  
 40 As neath the low hung boughs she needs must sway  
 From head to foot her unmatched daintiness  
 The heart of his sick longing did caress,  
 And seemed to say, all made for thee for thee!  
 How can it be thou turnest not to me!  
 45 But nought they spoke, till with a cry he turned,  
 And once again her quivering red lips burned  
 Upon his lips, and hand in hot hand lay  
 With feverish trembling of the long delay  
 Complaining sore, and still no word they spake  
 50 Afraid the dreamlike ecstasy to break,  
 Fearful lest all should begin again  
 Mid scanty sight and unquenched longing pain.  
 And yet once more because of time's hard hand  
 They needs must part a little yet, and stand  
 55 Beneath the changed moon, and the sky turned grey  
 While the soft wind did in her raiment play,  
 And cooled his burning cheek, that had been laid  
 So close to hers; and some faint speech they made,  
 Whose sound no letters written yet will show,

39 May] <d>\M/ay c2

41 unmatched] <wondrous> \unmatched/ c2

45 But ... spoke,] Nor yet had words c1

45 turned,] turned c1

46 quivering ... burned] odorous red lips burned c1; <passionate trembling \trembling/> \quivering/ red  
 lips <lay> \burned/ c2

47 lips, ... hand] lips and hand <complained to hand> \in hot hand/ c1

49 sore, and still] sore and yet c1

50 Afraid ... break,] Afeared alike that words the charm might break c1

51 Fearful ... again] And all might yet be to begin again, c1

52 unquenched longing pain.] all the longing pain c1

53 time's] times c1 [No new verse paragraph c1]

54 yet,] yet c1

55 moon,] moon c1

56 play,] play c1

57 cheek,] cheek c1 [Two flowers are drawn through lines 57-58 c1]

58 hers; ... made,] hers, and now some sound they made c1

59 show,] show c1; [folio 3 c2]

60 Then turned and saw the fair house all aglow  
 With lamps that made the dim and wavering green  
 Of windy night a strange thing to be seen,  
 As wide it stream oer trees and flowery grass  
 Then on they went until they too did pass  
 65 Into that light whereby he might behold  
 Her sweet face flushing with her love untold,  
 And see the wonder of her sandalled feet  
 The close-shut dewy daisies lightly meet  
 In such wise, as if they too felt his love  
 70 And scarce knew how for joy of it to move.

But when at last close to the porch they were  
 Him-seemed he scarce might see her beauty clear,  
 Despite the growing light; so passion burned  
 Within his heart, and therewithal he turned  
 75 With arms outspread, and opened mouth to speak;  
 But e'en therewith through the fair night did break –  
 – O from her lips? – a sound half sigh half scream,  
 And all was changed as in fearful dream,

60 Then] And *c1*  
 61 lamps ... and] red lamps that <a long way> that <all> \made/ the *c1*  
 62 a strange] a fair *c1*; a<t> strange *c2*  
 63 wide] <over #it> \wide/ *c1*  
 64 Then on] <#>\S/o <#>\o/n *c1*  
 65 whereby] and he *c1*  
 66 sweet ... untold,] face flushing neath her hair of gold *c1*  
 67 sandalled] sandaled *c1*; <unshod> \sandalled/ *c2*  
 68 The close-shut] <As they> the \close shut/ *c1*  
 69-70 In ... move.] [No corresponding line *c1*]  
 69 as] <and> \as/ *c2*  
 70 joy] joy <the> *c2*  
 71 close to] anigh *c1* [folio 1 verso *c1*]  
 72 clear,] clear *c1*  
 73 light;] light *c1*; light <-> \;/ *c2*  
 74 and therewithal] then unto her *c1*  
 75 speak;] speak *c1*  
 76 e'en] een *c1*  
 76 break – ] break *c1*  
 77 – O ... a] \From out her lips/ A *c1*  
 77 scream,] scream, <if far or nigh>  
     <Scarce could he tell, so great an agony>  
     <Possessed him smote through his heart> *c1*  
 78 was] seemed *c1*  
 78 fearful dream,] dreadful dream *c1*

To fearful to be real; on the cold sward  
 80 All huddled up she lay, as though a sword  
 Had smitten her unseen; with such wild fear  
 As words may tell not did he kneel by her  
 And caught her hand, and found it weak & cold,  
 And bared the breast he had not dared behold  
 85 For very love and longing heretofore,  
 And pressed the lips such fruit of love that bore,  
 And strove to cry her name, and while he clung  
 About her, fawning on her; but his tongue  
 Seemed withered in the mouth of him, and she  
 90 Lay dead there, ere his nameless agony  
 Mingling with rage against the Gods that slew,  
 The world that would not heed, from changed lips drew  
 A dreadful wordless sound, unlike to aught  
 That men may dream of ere the souls are caught  
 95 Within the meshes of despair: all night  
 He lay upon her bosom cold and white,  
 Blind, deaf, and, after that first bitter cry –  
 Dumb also; with no hope, not e'en to die;  
 Not e'en to die; for was it all so sure

79 To ... real;] Too dreadful to be real, *c1*  
 79 sward] <grass> sward *c1*  
 80 All ... a] Huddled up she felt as though an unseen *c1*  
 81 unseen] and he *c1*  
 82 did he kneel] speechless knelt *c1*  
 83 caught her hand,] took her hand *c1*  
 83 & cold,] and cold *c1*  
 84 bared ... not] felt her breast he scarce had *c1*  
 84 bared] <stripped> \bared/ *c2*  
 85 heretofore,] heretofore *c1*  
 86 bore,] bore *c1*  
 87 cry her name, the] call her name *c1*  
 88 About her,] <Unto her speechless &> about her *c1*  
 88 her;] her *c1*  
 90 Lay ... ere] Was dead before *c1*  
 92 heed,] heed *c1*; [folio 4 *c2*]  
 93 dreadfull wordless sound,] fearful \wordless/ sound *c1*  
 93 aught] aught <that earth> *c1*  
 94 men may] <happy> men <have heard> might *c1*  
 94 the souls] their <joy turns nought> hearts *c1*  
 95 despair:] despair *c1*  
 96 white,] white *c1*  
 97 Blind, ... after] <Sightless and speechless> Bind deaf and *c1*  
 97 cry – ] cry *c1*  
 98 also; ... die; ] also, with no hope not een to die *c1*  
 99 e'en to die;] een to die *c1*

100 That the underworld of dead folk would endure  
To see their deep joy in the dreary place  
If they at last should yet meet face to face  
In whatsoever wise.

So there he lay

Not heeding when the night turned into day  
105 And the sun rose; not heeding when folk came  
And called in terror on his well-loved name:  
Scarce heeding when their hands in gentle wise  
Drew him away, nor when before his eyes  
They sought for his love's hurt. Of what avail  
110 To add another word unto the tale  
But this: 'She that time past turned days to years  
Because of longing, and then dried my tears,  
Weeping when I had creased to weep for pain,  
Is gone is gone, and will not come again!'  
115 He stood and heard not while they told him there  
How dead she lay, her foot, he knew so fair  
All changed and swollen by the deadly sting  
Of a green-scaled cold-hearted creeping thing  
Charged with the inner venom of the earth;  
120 He scarce knew if the cries meant woe or mirth  
The maidens cried above: when they said

103 wise.

So.] wise – So *c1*

104 day] [A long branch of leaves is drawn after "day" *c1*] 106 well-loved name:] well loved name *c1*

108 him away,] him, *c1*

109 hurt. Of] hurt of *c1*

111 this: ... to] this, She that hath made days *c1*

112 Because ... tears,] <#> because of longing, who hath dried my tears *c1*

113 I] \wax dry eyes/ *c1*

113 pain,] pain *c1*

114 gone,] gone *c1*

114 again! /] again-- *c1* 115 He] [No indentation *c1*]

116 dead] there *c1*; <there>\dead/ *c2*

116 lay, her foot.] lay her <white> foot *c1*; lay, <the> \her/ foot, *c2*

117 All] <#> all *c1*

118 a ... cold-hearted] some green scaled cold hearted *c1*

118 thing] th<e>\i/ng *c2*

119 earth;] earth *c1*

120 the] the<#> *c1*

121 above:] above her *c1*

'Wilt thou not kiss thy sweet one lying dead,'  
 He stooped a down een as a well-taught child  
 And close to her dead lips his white lips smiled,  
 125 Yet touched them not because no smile there was  
 Upon them and no breath thenceforth did pass.  
 Thereafter hours, or days or years passed by,  
 He knew not which, and then he stood anigh  
 A high-raised pile upon a flowery knoll,  
 130 And round his head the incense cloud did roll,  
 And white things moved about him, and he saw  
 A red torch to the odorous faggots draw,  
 And their red tongues of flame leapt up, and then  
 Sore wails he heard, as if of maids and men,  
 135 Crying Eurydice Eurydice!  
 Yet not aright he seemed to hear and see.  
 And one spake anigh to him, and said  
 In a low voice; 'Alas as one long dead  
 Moving by magic art he seems to be;'  
 140 He thought; 'Yea, yea this is eternity,

122 'Wilt] Wilt *c1*  
 122 thy ... dead,'] her as she lieth dead *c1*  
 123 well-taught child] well taught child, *c1*  
 124 And] <C1> And *c1*  
 124 smiled,] smiled *c1*  
 125 Yet] [folio 5 *c2*]  
 125 because] because <t> *c2*  
 126 thenceforth ... pass.] from them did pass *c1*  
 127 hours,] hours *c1* [No new verse paragraph *c1*]  
 127 by,] by *c1*  
 128 which, and] which & *c1*  
 129 high-raised] high raised *c1* [folio 2 recto c1]  
 129 knoll,] kno<o>\l/1 *c1*  
 130 cloud did roll,] wreath did roll *c1*  
 131 him,] him *c1*  
 132 odorous faggots draw,] flower strewn <pile> heaped wood draw c1; <scent strewn heaped wood>  
 \odorous faggots/draw, *c2*  
 133 their] then *c1*  
 133 up,] up *c1*  
 134 heard,] heard *c1*  
 134 men,] men *c1*  
 135 Eurydice Eurydice!] <aloud> Eurydice Eurydice – *c1*  
 136 not] nought *c1*  
 136 see.] see *c1*  
 137 one ... and] when he heard some one anigh who *c1*  
 138 voice; 'Alas] voice, alas *c1*  
 139 by] my *c1*; <my> by *c2*  
 139 to be;'] <to now> to be *c1*  
 140 thought; 'Yet,] thought yea *c1*  
 140 eternity,] eternity *c1*

Therefore no change, no rest at all I know  
 And all the world is but a hollow show;  
 Because I shall not die nor go to her,  
 Who now being dead, and knowing all, must bear  
 145 My woe, as I bear hers for evermore –  
 “When will the Gods die and all things be oer.  
 So folk say that the mourning country side  
 Expected nought but that he should have died  
 And with hushed voices would they pass his house  
 150 And the gay blossomed place was dolorous  
 Neath the June sunlight to their timorous eyes  
 Who feared so great a grief-due sacrifice  
 They did unto the Gods that he they loved  
 So lasting well might yet again be moved  
 155 By the sweet gift of song that heretofore  
 The sweet strange troubles of his wooing bore  
 Belike it was they did not pray in vain  
 Because the gods who sit above our pain  
 Have given us no such strength as theirs to bear  
 160 The torment of the never ending year  
 Since they have taken from us all the best  
 And pain grows old and sickens like the rest  
 And dies unless we die before its death.  
 Natheless the summer long my story saith  
 165 Sat Orpheus silent and the noon tide sun  
 Was grievous to him and the long day done  
 Still left the night amidst of scanty sleep  
 Over his ever restless head to creep  
 Yet day passed day and came not back again  
 170 Although it well might seem to him that vain  
 And empty was the changeless slow process  
 Of pitiless time to hear his wretchedness

141 change,] change *c1*

142 show;] show *c1*

143 her,] her *c1*

144 dead,] dead *c1*

144 all,] all *c1*

146 be oer] pass oer? *c1* [Line drawn beneath line 146 with numeral “93” in the margin *c1*]; [End of fair copy of *c2*. All subsequent lines from 147 through 542 are draft *c1*]

151 Neath] <Went their eyes> *c1*

160 Year] [Flowers are drawn in the right margin]

161 day done] \day/ done

167 night night <to pass>

170 seem <# >

How know I how hope grows again when all  
 Has seemed for aye into the dark to fall  
 175 The rude grained twisted oak that hung above  
 Our heads when we were young and glad with love  
 Seemed changeless as that love as day by day  
 We watched the evening sunlight fade away  
 Twixt its high branches now our love is dead  
 180 And we are gone and unremembered  
 And three feet further do its acorns fall  
 Upon the green and three inches more  
 It bole hath gained of girth from bark and core  
 Nor any easier to note than this  
 185 The growth was of the yearning after bliss  
 In the sad singer's mind since dead & gone  
 Time was to him, and he all left alone  
 Amid a world that once was well beloved  
 And no more might avail now or be moved  
 190 By what he was was and had been – yet the earth  
 So wellbeloved that pleasant place of mirth  
 Amid all things so held him with its chains  
 That still no thought he had to end his pain  
 Or strive to end or through doubtful night  
 195 Go seek a joy that mid the blaze of light  
 He might not hold, so passed the summer by  
 Mid shifting of his silent misery  
 But when it grew to the mid autumn tide  
 He crept abroad again and wandered wide  
 200 About the land: and oft he stood to watch  
 The children playing on the wayside patch  
 Of dewy green in early morn or saw  
 The mist from off the noisy vine and draw  
 As languidly the day drew on to noon  
 205 Or he would melt beneath the early moon  
 Some little knot of vintagers and stand  
 Beside the way while hand locked fast in hand

175 The rude grained] No \The/ rude grained <oak>  
 176 heads] <gleaming eyes> \heads/  
 179 its] <h> its  
 188 that ... beloved] <who now no one> that <even as images> \once was will beloved/  
 195 mid ... of] <still escaped the> \mid the blaze of/  
 196 He] [Line drawn beneath line 196 and a long leafed design is drawn in the right margin.]  
 198 mid] <sad> \mid/  
 203 noisy vine and] \noisy/ vine <clad terrace> \and/

and eyes fixed on the yellow litten stead  
 Down by the stream the goal of the hot head  
 210 Wearing by love those twain past down the road;  
 And after them with firm feet onward strode  
 The man of forty summers pondering  
 In weary mood and then the broken string  
 Of fair young girls darkening the moonlit way  
 215 With wavering shadows and the dainty sway  
 Of their brown raiment making the night sweet  
 With laugh & song and patter of light feet –  
 And then perchance some ## pair walking slow  
 Unto the house that no more hope did know  
 220 Of merry days and yet was rest withal  
 And then night's hush rose up an unseen wall  
 Twixt hope and truth to these but unto him  
 A path of hope however thin and dim –  
 For as unto his own abode he went  
 225 Amid his dull weary longings fair hope sent  
 A strange sweet thing that made him live on still  
 That made him feel a weak new birth of will  
 Yea that it happed to him once and again  
 That in such wise had softened his great pain  
 230 That when he bore unto his own abode  
 On such an eve's end his most grievous load  
 And gazed upon this fair white nuptial bed  
 Whereon she should be lying, his worn head  
 Fell on the pillow and such grace was his  
 235 That he might weep for that departed bliss  
 And on a day when thin-leaved grew the year  
 And the last end of its last hope was near  
 So much more sweet grew his unquenched pain  
 That mends ears heard his harp strings click again  
 240 Amid the fallen leaves amidst a wood  
 his back against a knotted oak he stood  
 Once hazy afternoon unvexed by wind

208 and] <Eyes fixed on eyes> and  
 208 stead] <house> \stead/  
 213 In] <Sadly belike on many a long past thing> In  
 213 ##] <\an/ old>[?]  
 225 his dull weary] <the raging> \his dull weary/  
 226 sweet thing] <thing> sweet <#\t/hing  
 226 live] li<g>\v/e  
 227 a] a<n>  
 230 abode] [A large leaf is drawn in the right margin.]  
 242 Once] On<ce>\e/

And mid his weary longing did find  
 His harp within his hand he looked at  
 245 While stings of fresh rain oer his heart did flit,  
 He looked at it till he began once more  
 To weep unused tears: then he turned it ore  
 Like an untaught man who has found a thing  
 He knows no how to use; then string by string  
 250 It 'gan to tremble and his fingers moved  
 Over the ghosts of lays his lost love loved  
 And the harp sounded as if soft it dreamed  
 Then from his wet eyes suddenly there gleamed  
 A flash of joy and living love upright  
 255 He stood amid the faint and flickering light  
 And like a heaven taught master dealt withal  
 With the strange passion that oer him did fall  
 The tale remembers words alike to this  
 How much soe'er their loveliness we miss  
  
 260 O love love love folk told me thou wert dead  
 And O my folly! I believed their tale  
 And I have gone about with hanging head  
 And found no place in hill or wood or bale  
 Lonely enough that there I might bewail;  
 265 All dead things heard my breath & gazed and moved  
 And cried I sorrow sorrow unbeloved –  
  
 The wood laid hand upon me when I screamed  
 The grass clung round about my heavy feet  
 The cruel sun upon my my hot head streamed  
 270 The heavy circling air my face did meet  
 In measured cadence did the worlds pulse beat  
 About my ears and whereso e'er I moved  
 Cried sorrow sorrow sorrow unbeloved  
  
 I know not what I said for 'dead' I cried  
 275 And when shall I forget and all things cease  
 Ah fool for rather nothing at that tide  
 Did I remember and no dream brought ease

243 abode ] <And thinking on what never left his ###>  
 And  
 244 hand] hand <an> [folio 3 recto]  
 260 folk] <they said>'folk  
 260 thou] thou<gh>  
 275 all] <beat peace?> all  
 276 tide] <d>\t/ide

No dream of all the kisses and the peace.  
 Yea I was dead though on the Earth I moved  
 280 O sorrow sorrow sorrow unbeloved

But not perchance perchance a love I live  
 For all around me is the world dead now  
 All unrequarded and meet to give  
 Pleasure or pain from out its painted show  
 285 And clearer now the dreams of thee do grow  
 When oer thy face my love my loved lips moved –  
 O sorrow sorrow sorrow unbeloved  
 Perchance I live & certainly though livest  
 And must I ever then be left alone  
 290 While thou new joy to unseen people givest  
 O strange a strange if thou so hard art grown  
 That thou mayst sit apart and hear my moan  
 Once was thine heart not all so hardly moved –  
 O sorrow sorrow sorrow unbeloved  
 295 Sweet solace lowly sorrow well beloved –  
 The singer looked up when his song was done  
 And twist the streaks of shadow and of sun  
 And melancholy autumn trees he saw  
 A company of maidens toward him draw  
 300 Slow footed black robed crowned with rosemary  
 As though they went on some solemnity  
 Then as in a dumb dream where nought is told  
 But all is known strange memories oer him rolled  
 And he knew now that he had heard of these  
 305 That week by week they went thus to appease  
 Their longings for the sight of his dead love  
 By casting wreaths of woven flowers above  
 Her tear washed tomb, shuddering he stole away  
 A duller veil had crept across his day

280 beloved] [A bouquet of flowers is drawn between the two stanzas.]

285 dreams] dream<#>\s/

287 unbeloved] <unblo> unbeloved

291 if] <##> if

296 The] [folio 3 verso]

299 of] of <black#>

304 knew] knew <#>

304 heard] heard <#>

308 Her] <The tomb wherein she stay> Her

309 veil] veil <now>

309 his] <the>\his/

310 At sight of the fresh forces that scarce seemed  
 As though they knew what sorrow meant or dreamed  
 Of hopeless longing hanging like a chain  
 Still lengthening on the long days passed in vain  
 So on then passed his song still in their ears  
 315 To shed oer her perchance such happy tears  
 Soon dried as make a softer thing of life  
 But he with hate of all the world at strife  
 With a strange hope within him went his ways  
 Until he reached his lorn abiding place  
 320 And there a long while did he sit alone  
 Till long ago twilight and dusk were done  
 And in the dead midnight when certainly  
 It seemed the sun would never rise to die  
 Amidst the waking wind abroad he stole  
 325 Until he reached the true encircled knoll  
 Whereon was made his lost love's fair tomb  
 And laid his hand thereon Yet toward the gloom  
 Of clashing woods still oer his shoulder gazed  
 A little while and then his hand he raised  
 330 And and looked about and with an angry cry  
 Smote the hard stone and sent forth clear & high  
 Oer the wild night and dark wind tortured trees  
 And dying flowers such measured worlds as these –

O hollow image of the very death  
 335 Despite of what the dull void threateneth  
 Despite the dull curse that thy silence saith  
 My feet are on the way to meet my love  
 O eyeless thing the night is dark about  
 The hounds of hard lipped fear are loosed and out  
 340 Low hangs the sky above the dull earths doubt  
 I tremble too but hope my heart doth move

311 they] <their> they  
 315 oer her] \oer her/  
 315 tears] tears <as>  
 316 Soon] <As make> Soon  
 317 of] of <me>  
 324 waking] <morning> \waking/  
 327 toward] <mids> toward  
 329 little while] \little/ while <then>  
 330 And] And <smote>  
 335 the] the<y>  
 340 hangs] han<d>\g/s  
 340 dull] <dark> \dull/

I know thee when the clover flowers did pine  
 They set thee here cold thing to be a sign  
 That neath thee lay all life that once was mine  
 345 O low feet low O feet to meet my love.  
 The lied tomb of my love and made thee lie  
 Harken harp strings clear voice her sweet name cry  
 Once Eurydice and no reply  
 Unto the heart of hope my heart to move –  
 350 Nay nay thou art not God's abiding place  
 And with none else but God now dwells that face  
 That gave me once clear nights and shadowy days  
 Be patient feet scarce time to meet my love  
 And yet strangely O thou lie thou holdest me,  
 355 And with strained eyes I stare as though to see  
 Through thy dull void the lips once laid on me  
 Speak midst the silence, love, my heart to move.

Loud clear and strange his voice rang through the night  
 And as it waned quick by some strange affright  
 360 He crouched adown and trembled, but no sound  
 He heard except the wind that swept around  
 The grassy knoll, yet therewith presently  
 With no charge coming oer the half seen sky  
 As oft rain gan to fall, and when he raised  
 365 A white face up and oer the blind world gazed  
 The tears of autumn from his worn cheek washed  
 The bitter brine of woe, for the rain plashed  
 In heavy drops on marble and dark wreath  
 whose fairness mocked the hopeless sign of death  
 370 Then down the knoll he dropped and through the trees  
 Went underneath the slowly dying breeze,  
 And reached his home long hours before the day  
 All fear had died all thought had passed away

342 I] <They set thee here cold thing to be a sign>  
 344 That] [folio 4 recto]  
 345 O low feet low] <Long is the way> \O low feet low/  
 347 strings] strings <and>  
 349 to] <doth> \to/  
 350 Nay] <Nay> <The God hides not beneath thy dreaminess> Nay  
 355 stare] <d>\s/tare  
 356 once] <##> once  
 367 for] <and> \for/  
 369 whose] <That mocked> whose  
 370 dropped] <pass> dropped  
 373 died] died <in him>

From out his heart but this that on and on & on  
 375 His feet must press until the rest were won,  
 That poison of his love and pain had brought  
 The thronged world with hope and fear to nought  
 And filled him with a strength that might be weighed  
 Against the ceaseless toil its sweetness made  
 380 The toil of longing never waxing old  
 That still in shadowy coils about him rolled  
 Changing and changing not, e'en as the smoke  
 That from the low kiln o'er the potter's folk  
 Rolls beaten by the rain & mingling still  
 385 With the low clouds that sweep the blue-clad hill.  
 So southward from the wooded hills of Thrace  
 Through the blind rainy night he set his face  
 Nor had he wondered if the dawn had died  
 For ever and no whit did he abide  
 390 When now the dull dawn fouler than the night  
 Because the down beat world beneath its light  
 Could now be seen struggling unhelped in vain  
 Unto the sunless noon through wind and rain  
 Still on he pushed and when at last he stayed  
 395 His weary feet his heart was scarce delayed  
 But o'er again & o'er again still wove  
 Fresh pictures of the meeting of his love  
 Nor did the days pass fast or slow to him  
 For time was dead, and soulless things and dim  
 400 Seemed all the folk mid whom his feet did rest  
 Who held him certes as one God possessed  
 And tended him in awful silent care  
 Yet when he went the day seemed grown more fair  
 An ill dream gone from them – yet mid these folk  
 405 So was it that from time to time he woke  
 As unto real life – on a day it fell  
 That nigh a place where he had quested well  
 Upon an hillside close beside the way  
 He saw folk gather about noon of day  
 410 Nor shunned the concourse this tide but pressed through  
 The clustering folk as though full well he knew  
 What was amid them and there lay a man  
 Of thirty summers, with dead face and wan

384 Rolls] Rolls <mingling>  
 390 when now] <And> when \now/  
 392 Could] [folio 4 verso]  
 404 An] An<d>  
 412 What] What <he should>

Turned upward to the sky, a myrtle wreath  
 415 About his head, his right hand stiff with death  
 Clutching a blood stained knife, and close beside  
 Where maidens with loose hair that wailed & cried  
 About him; and so when the singers eyes  
 Gan question of the thing, his name did rise  
 420 To the folks wondering lips, for all did know  
 The mover of the world but not his woe--  
 Then did an old man answer to his gaze  
 That he who lay there bore for many days –  
 The burden of great love unsatisfied  
 425 Until the bitter thing he might not hide  
 And at the last his piteous love gained hate  
 From such an one as all compassionate  
 Folk held aforetime – how should he live then  
 Or strive again to deal with happy men  
 430 His death should hurt her not who loved him not  
 His bitter life would swiftly be forgot  
 And so of all this knife & hand made end –  
 And through what dark ways now his soul may wend  
 We know know not but O Thracian if thou mayst  
 435 Be kind and some what of they music waste  
 On this poor wretch who never happy was  
 And on thy way with his poor blessing pass  
 Then Orpheus trembled sore and gazed around  
 For with a fresh pain tortured him his wound  
 440 Undreamed of erst mingled of fear and doubt  
 But soft from harp and lips the song welled out –

Love set me in a flowery world and fair  
 Love showed me many marvels moving there  
 And said take these if nought thine heart doth dare  
 445 To feel my fiery hand upon thy heart  
 Take these and live and lose the better part  
 Love showed me death and said make no delay  
 Love showed me change and said joy ebbs away  
 Love showed me eld, mid vain regrets grown grey

415 stiff] sti<ll\ff/

424 The ... unsatisfied] <Blows for his kisses, scorn for piteous prayer> \The burden of great love  
unsatisfied/

425 Until ... hide] <Forget which for neither ceasing care> \Until the bitter thing he might not hide/

426 And] <Till> \And/

426 gained] <begat> gained

435 Be] <On> \B/e

435 what] w<#>\h/at

445 thy] <my> \thy/ [folio 5 recto]

446 live] li<f>\v/e

450 I laughed for joy and round his heart I clung,  
Sickened & swooned by bitter sweetness stung  
But I aoke at last and born again  
Said eager hands upon unrest & pain  
And wrapped myself about with longing vain  
455 Ah better still and better all things grew  
As more the root and heart of love I knew  
O Love love love what is it thou hast done  
All pains all tears I knew save only one  
Where is the green earth now where is the sun  
460 Thou didst not say my love might never move  
Her hands her eyes her lips to bless my love!

Ending with strange wild face he turned away  
Nor might abide to hear what face would say  
Or meet their eyes, for in his heart was born  
465 A dreadful fear that made him more forlorn  
Than he had deemed it possible to be  
Since unreal dealt first smote him suddenly  
A dreadful fear that he een at the best  
When his head lay upon the heaving breast  
470 Of his own love sweet living and alive  
Unto himself alone her love did give  
That he was all alone yea even then  
Himself rear to himself all other men  
And hopes and fears and longings wild but his  
475 Shadows and nought, ah that his vanished bliss  
Should come back now to call itself a lie  
To scream what profit of the days gone by  
Since if they perish ever were they nought  
To cry seek seek een as this wretched has sought  
480 Seek and find nothing but the void of space  
And thou with thine ownself brought face to face  
Face to face nought to help thee – fool that sayst  
How can love die how shall this anguish waste  
Sure something it shall move what shall it move  
490 But that which I desire and bring me love –  
Yea joy in love or pain in love – poor fool  
Thy love shall move thyself make the tool  
Of what thou knowest not – yea turn back again

453 Said] <Caught with #> Said

460 say] say <##>

463 face] fac<t>\e/

466 he ... be] <since that first wild hour his heart had been> <A dreadful fear> \he had deemed it possible to be/

474 fears] fears <but>

482 face to] <#>\f/ace to

484 Sure] Sure<ly>

484 move] move <and>

Look at the wretch who lies abend of pain  
490 Is he not helpless – ah sweet at first  
Did that pain seem that thus his life hath cursed  
Yea a sweet secret not to be expressed  
For fear the world at hearing of it blessed  
Should falter in its course for fear that she  
495 Should faint at thought of its felicity  
Een though she cannot love me –

Than since the first days he had been – ah love  
Ah love he thought that all the gods should move  
Yet canst not move withal thine agony  
500 One heart of woman: swiftly hurried by  
Wild thoughts across his heart and this at last  
That all the love and happiness gone past  
Was but a dream a thing himself had made  
From his own heart that shrinking and afraid  
505 Of his own dreadful self in the void space  
He should wake up one one day, and find no face  
No voice of any man or God while he  
Drifted about the dread eternity  
Should never die should never hope or fear  
510 Should have no love no hate to come anear  
Nay no voice left to cry come back again  
Come back my folly come my yearning pain  
Come back a bitterness of heaven and earth  
Yea what I called despair once that had birth  
515 Within my heart while somewhat was mine own  
Before I knew that I was quite alone!  
Wrapped in such thoughts he hurried on and on  
Not resting where his evening rest was won  
And thinking less of those he left behind  
520 When the new risen sun his face did find  
Crossing the threshold than a happy man  
Thinketh at morn of his pale dreams & wan  
And yet at whiles his lips his lyre would speak  
Things that his heart scarce knew as faint & weak  
525 Thought of the old fresh earthly life would strive  
With that desire that kept his heart alive  
That made his body strong yet slew in him  
The simple love of earth – his eyes would swim  
At such whiles, for a minute soft and sweet,  
530 A with vain regretful pain his longering feet

492 Yea] [folio 5 verso]

507 God] God <to meet>

522 of] <a>\o/f

525 thought ... fresh] <Picture> \Thought/ of <bygone happy life> \the old fresh/

530 A] A <doubtful>

His quivering face would turn to his old home  
Till once again the dreadful pang would come  
Born of despair, yet driving him like hope  
With all the loneliness of life to cope  
535 Now had the winter fallen on the land  
Yet smote it with no hard remorseless hand  
For hazy morns red litten sun set skies  
Bright windless noons left hopes & memories  
Unto lark haunted fallow and slim trees  
540 Why by a homestead door amid a rood  
Of fresh turned garden nigh a leafless wood  
Sat Orpheus on an eve a goodman grey

531 His] <T>\H/is

537 For] <#\Fo/r

538 left hopes &] <still> left <#\hopes &/

539 Unto] <Of autumn past and spring that spring was to be> <\to fallow nameless stem  
twigged/> Unto

542 Orpheus] Or<e>pheus