



ABOU BEN ADHEM

Leigh Hunt

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe
increase!)

Awoke one night from a deep
dream of peace,

And saw, within the moonlight in
his room,



Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold:
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem
bold,

And to the presence in the room he said,
“What writest thou?”—The vision
raised its head,

And with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered, “The names of those who love the Lord.”

“And is mine one?” said Abou. “Nay, not so,”
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerly still; and said, “I pray thee, then,

Write me as one that loves his fellow men.”

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night

It came again with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God
had blest,

And lo! Ben Adhem’s name led all the rest.



Glossary:

tribe	: people
lily	: a flower
bloom	: open, blossom
exceeding	: great
writest	: write
thou	: you
vision	: seeing someone/something
accord	: grant, agree, bring into harmony
cheerly	: cheerfully
thee	: you
fellow man	: another human being
vanished	: disappeared
wakening light	: light which rouses from sleep/in active condition
blest	: blessed
lo!	: a word used for calling attention.