

# Tulips

## EPITHALAMION

### I.

Thou aged unreluctant earth who dost  
 with quivering continual thighs invite  
 the thrilling rain the slender paramour  
 to toy with thy extraordinary lust,  
 (the sinuous rain which rising from thy bed  
 steals to his wife the sky and hour by hour  
 wholly renews her pale flesh with delight)  
 —immortally whence are the high gods fled?

Speak elm eloquent pandar with thy nod  
 significant to the ecstatic earth  
 in token of his coming whom her soul  
 burns to embrace—and didst thou know the god  
 from but the imprint of whose cloven feet  
 the shrieking dryad sought her leafy goal,  
 at the mere echo of whose shining mirth  
 the furious hearts of mountains ceased to beat?

Wind beautifully who wanderest  
 over smooth pages of forgotten joy  
 proving the peaceful theorems of the flowers  
 —didst e'er depart upon more exquisite quest?  
 and did thy fortunate fingers sometime dwell  
 (within a greener shadow of secret bowers)  
 among the curves of that delicious boy  
 whose serious grace one goddess loved too well?

Chryselephantine Zeus Olympian  
 sceptred colossus of the Pheidian soul  
 whose eagle frights creation, in whose palm  
 Nike presents the crown sweetest to man,  
 whose liliated robe the sun's white hands emboss,  
 betwixt whose absolute feet anoint with calm  
 of intent stars circling the acerb pole  
 poises, smiling, the diadumenos