

# WHYM CHOW FLAME OF LOVE

BY MICHAEL FIELD.

«Leave the fire ashes, what survives is gold.»

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M.CM.XIV.

WHY MY CHOICE  
THE NAME OF LOVE

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## ¶ I. REQUIESCAT.



CALL along the Halls of Suffering!  
Hark! Down each aisle reverber-  
ated cries  
Out of deep wounds, out of each  
fiery spring  
Of nerve, or piteous anguish of  
surprise.

And I must traverse these grand  
vaults to hear

The patter of thy feet, my little Chow,  
Driven soft of frenzy on and on—the drear  
And winter bee-note at thy stricken brow.

Loud Halls, O Hades of the living! On!...  
What, are the swarming little cries not heard?  
What, are the lit bright feet for ever gone  
Or yet to swifter orbit they were spurred?

If I should wander on till Time had close  
Thee, with thy shuffled paws, I should not find:  
No chasm, nor any heinous shadow knows  
Thy haunt; nor may I fear thee left behind.

Forth, Forth! Away! He is not of these Halls—  
No motion of him there, Whym Chow no sound:  
His ruby head shall never strike their walls,  
And nowhere by a cry shall he be found.

## II. INTROIT.



TERROR laid on all  
The pulsing air, O heart  
That riseth into waves that can-  
not fall!

One comes, not to depart!  
What is it makes a tunnel of my hall?  
Why can no echoes start?  
Who cometh like the snow pushed toward a  
land?

Who cometh like the snow pushed toward a  
land?

What can the strange power be?  
Not the whole mountain-frame of earth, nor  
band  
Of the cold-swaying sea,  
Nor yet the ages under Time's Command,  
Gray in weird strength as he—  
Not sky beyond the range of any star,

Not sky beyond the range of any star—  
Nor all these fearful things  
In unison like to this Presence are.  
Oh, but the bosom clings  
To breath, the eyes to light, while from afar,  
As come almighty Kings,  
Our dead comes back again, the dead, our  
dead.

The dead comes back again, the dead, our dead,  
Brought through the passage in!  
O Wonderment, extremity of dread!  
No child, nay, none of kin,  
No sovereign and no warrior: but instead  
Of these, the awe they win,  
O Chow, my little Love, thou art come home.

O Chow, my little Love, thou art come home.  
No creature in more state  
Dead to the haunts of life hath ever come.  
And little Love, the great,  
And mighty Power, nay, mightier than the dome  
Beyond all stars, or than Time's hoariest date,  
Or sea or the world's rock hath brought thee home.

III.



ROWNED with wine-steeped  
Daphne bough,  
Strewment of the black,  
Sproutless ivy in thy frenzy trod,  
Wine-steeped hellebore  
'Neath thy ebon chin,  
Thy bright corse walled in  
On thy coffin-floor;  
And the wine of God  
Making ruddy track  
On thy side, thy blood upon thy brow!

By those elements life-red,  
By the blood, the wine,  
O beloved, our Want, our hidden Soul,  
Be our dæmon, be  
Guardian angel near  
To the cruel sphere  
Of our destiny,  
As its changes roll  
Genius half-divine,  
Dear Companion, blessed as are the dead.

Not in full-furred loveliness,  
When love's shining aid  
Came from brilliant eyes and glorious face—  
Now we may not touch  
Full-furred beauty, grand  
As lions' ruby-tanned,

Nay, be with us such  
As by holiest grace  
Spirits have been made  
Wayfarer with men, fired through to bless!

IV.



DIONYSUS, at thy feet  
The beauteous reveller, our joy,  
we lay—

Our Bacchic Cub, the dear tamed animal,  
So often touched with ivy-coronal,  
Who, breathing day  
As from a mountain, found thy worship sweet.

O god, o vine, on his dead side  
Stain of thy grape: above his corse we drink  
In sacrament to thy divinest folly  
That made all creatures of bright revel holy,  
Chose them to link  
With god and mænads in one rapture wide.

He loved thy torch of vivid flame,  
He loved the breath of life, the rush, the glance  
Of eyes from inmost happiness, and splendid  
His glow as on his joyance he attended  
With countenance  
Of merchant over jewels of deep fame.

Receive him, tragic god of tendrilled fire—  
Our sweetest, let us rove and rove with him.  
We pledged him in thy grape. Leave us not lonely  
But bring him and thy wine-cup with thee only—  
Our Chow, our Whym,  
And thirst should end, and passion bind desire.

• V. TRINITY.



DID not love him for myself alone:  
I loved him that he loved my  
dearest love.

O God, no blasphemy  
It is to feel we loved in trinity,  
To tell Thee that I loved him as Thy Dove  
Is loved, and is Thy own,  
That comforted the moan  
Of Thy Beloved, when earth could give no balm  
And in Thy Presence makes His tenderest calm.

So I possess this creature of Love's flame,  
So loving what I love he lives from me;  
Not white, a thing of fire,  
Of seraph-plumèd limbs and one desire,  
That is my heart's own, and shall ever be:  
An animal—with aim  
Thy Dove avers the same....  
O symbol of our perfect union, strange  
Unconscious Bearer of Love's interchange.

VI.



HAT is the other name of Love?  
Has Love another name?  
Yea, one that, when he came  
To his Creator's feet above,  
Met his lone ear and thrilled  
His grievous want, and filled  
The chamber of his birth with new live fire.

«Response, my Answer» was God's cry.  
O gift of joy to hear  
The Godhead's welcome clear.  
As heart to heart the vast  
Desires were gathered fast—  
Love as the source of Love, Love the Reply.

Response! O little Love, O little Chow!  
O Answer! What is Love's most answering  
bliss?  
What is Love's happiness alert but this  
To welcome? And thy rage of welcome how  
Should words tell dim—the bound,  
The dances round and round,  
As if the sun had come down carrying love  
Instead of light, with all his rays and power,  
With the wild spinning of his heat above,  
And in thy body had his hour  
Of cabriole and circle on the ground!  
What beating of fine, little feet!

What slouch of ears like banners drooped  
To the great Victor all the soul would greet!  
Thy tail—the thyrse of flame that Delphi knew,  
Thy dance—such dance as on Cithæron tossed!  
Thy cries as circling sea-birds mew;  
Thy stretched paws the defiance of all fear,  
With the adored in sight and near  
To touch and smell—the fine nose stooped  
In midst of ecstacy to prove it sure,  
Not a vain presence in its visit lost:  
Athwart thine eyes the fierceness of a gem,  
That drowns its flashes and then rescues them,  
Casting on lucent gold about them set  
Magnificence still with doom's flooding wet—  
Eyes that no separation could enure  
To loss of their one love, their utter fate.  
O Chow, the glory and the gold-furred state  
That smote beyond the strength of any verse,  
And all its pride in gold, even to rehearse—  
The state that surged around a daily chance,  
If thy Beloved should enter: in thy Dance  
A worship; in thy light, a universe.

♣ VII.



T is so old and deep a thing  
The being fond of animals—so far  
It goes back to when earth was  
first beginning,

Lay under forests dark as storm-clouds are,  
Or from its ice menaced frail breath and motion  
Of living creatures. Then, by many an ocean,  
Lost to our planet now, man followed beast  
As foe; and out of hatred came a love  
For breath that feebly struggled as man's breath,  
For loneliness of soul that could at least  
Be faithful to the Voice of one above,  
And listen for it through the woods till death,  
And listen for it through the icy flaw;  
Yea, come at last to worship at the door  
Where dwelt the Voice, and at its human hearth  
Find the one end to a world's trackless path.

God in His spaces overhead  
Seeks not the powers and angels for His heart:  
From these in passion ever is He parted,  
And with our mortal ignorance hath part.  
Our wild, divining simpleness entrances,  
And in the solace of our upward glances  
The truth of His own mystery prevails.  
So is it when the creatures of the Earth  
What was and shall be in ourselves reveal  
From eyes that pierce us not; where love avails

To grasp what apprehension in its dearth  
Can never judge. Oh, as our God, to feel  
A being from below reach where in vain  
Those of a race more equal scarce attain:  
In sacred revelation to be caught  
By blessed eyes even yet with chaos fraught!

❧ VIII. OUT OF THE EAST.



ASPER and jacinth, amber and  
fine gold,  
The topaz, ruby, the fire-opal, grey  
And lucent agate covered thee

with glory,

O Eastern Prince from fuming China hoary,  
That on thy orient rug celestial lay,  
Thy coat a web of treasure manifold!

And from thy glinted eye what lust of eye,  
What joy in having joy to thy desire,  
What potency out of thy gold to fashion  
Thy slaves to aptness for each regal passion,  
What ambush and what ease of rampant fire!  
What somnolence of ancient cruelty!

And what endowment of what frenzied joy,  
That our cold flesh of the Hesperides  
Can reach not,... eyes and teeth and feet all blende  
In pomp of dithyramb that only ended  
By sleep, through which the god remitting frees  
His votary from fire-flames that destroy.

Yet in thee such a bowing-down to doom:  
Docile and proud with humbleness a spell,  
Thy talisman of universal splendour—  
That with necessity by still surrender  
Thou wouldest be level whatsoe'er befell,  
Nor by defeated light establish gloom.

And mysteries, old mysteries like stars  
Rose in thy spread gaze, and thy thought was filled  
With worship, with perpetual adoration;  
Thy very breath of being an oblation;  
Infinitude a faith life never stilled,  
The lustier for its chains, its wrongs and jars.

O Orient Prince, thou Asian Bacchant, dear  
To Eleutherius, how thou knewest love!—  
Thy Mistress thy hot self thou couldst not render;  
Yea, with indifference, a strain untender,  
She being thy very self, thou would'st not move  
Even to caress her, for caress too near.

Thou would'st not break thy trance save at the hour  
Of welcome: then the glories of thy race,  
Then dance and sovereign courtesy, elation  
As thou would'st heap the substance of a nation  
At feet that had the ritual of thy face,  
And all thy gems in flash, thy gold in shower.

IX.



Y loved One is away from me  
Whom thou dost love. O Chow,  
That with my outward eyes I may  
not see

Thy gaze that fathomed how  
Intent were thy furred ears with such emotion,  
As in a shell is straining for the ocean!

My loved One is away from me;  
I may not turn to find,  
Chow, in thy senses the infinity  
That in my senses pined  
For her we loved in absence and together,  
My feet, thine eager paws, questioning whether

The loved One would come back to us  
Or now, or soon, or late.  
Oh, in our vigil to be solaced thus,  
By the unbounded pressure of one yearning  
Vaster than we, no pause in it, no turning!

Our loved One was away from each:  
Your eyes burnt signals, mine  
Sprang the same flambeaux the same aid to reach  
Of Guardian Love divine—  
That it would give us back our sole possession,  
For whom our thoughts, breath, hearts kept  
holy cession.

Our loved One was away from you—  
O Chow, the sighs, our sighs!  
And what I murmured you would listen to  
With your far-open eyes,  
Raised in the anguish of a want immortal...  
Lo, than didst sweep as hawk against the portal!

For, lo, our loved One surely came,  
Lo, she was at the door!  
Your eyes demanded Yes, in running flame;  
Mine gave them Yes—no more:  
And we had reached our vigil's end in gladness  
Of so great ease from terror it seemed madness.

My loved One is away from me.  
O Chow, no more, we twain  
My lovely fellow-lover, hear and see  
And breathe for her again!  
You ever have your Love...yet do not leave me,  
Nor in my mortal wake of love bereave me!

My loved One is away—my cry!  
Be at my side, unseen,  
Alert, like strange Anubis, toward the sky,  
As you so oft have been.  
O Chow, my little Love, you watch above her;  
Watch still beside me, be with me her lover!

♣ X. SEMPER JAM.



NE attitude, the only one  
That never changes, we must keep  
When the warm flux of life is gone,  
One attitude, but one, that sleep  
Of its own self and loneliness  
Doth with a sovereign stamp impress,  
The terror of one endless pose.—  
O vivid, little Chow, O Rose  
Of circling life, erected head,  
And limbs of ever-lambent red,  
That would not wait a jot for aught  
The impulse of their motion sought;  
Impatience beautiful, and tart—  
Yea, with desire's exceeding smart...  
Now limbs stretched forth and flank stretched  
slim,  
Down from thy ruff's deep mantling rim,  
Thy forehead plain in rest, thine eye  
Glinted aslant and lazily...  
Just as so often I have seen  
Thee slumbering with a lion's mien.  
Long watched I then, but never stayed  
Thus on thy sleep, as if delayed  
Before a state-duration held  
Fast, and in sculptured presence spelled.  
Not life—with this unthought-of woe,  
We still must see it ever so...

The terror—it is life, and yet  
A form we never may forget;  
And never may its contours move,  
Nor its closed posture answer love.

XI. DEI DONO.



HY beauty—that of action born,  
Of drama and the thyrse tossed  
higher;

An apparition of exceeding fire,  
Swept hither, thither among men, in scorn  
As comet is to fool and craven, dire.

Beauty—by Asian Bromius shed  
On mane and banneret of fur,  
On fretted eyes, over undompted head;  
Coat of high strand as mountain juniper;  
And clouded radiance only gods confer.

Yet fine thou wert as bliss can make  
The devotee: nostrils light-stirred,  
In touch as perfect as a drinking bird;  
Thy feet—in which an eager pulse would shake  
To music by the Star of Morning heard.

And freshness! Even as in the hand  
A rose of the first dew will bloom—  
Such freshness of thyself, such sturdy room  
For being elate thou didst of right command  
That in red flame thou didst affront all gloom.

## ¶ XII. ABSENCE.



Woe of thy little face behind the pane!

Woe of thy lovely, golden face!

Its music in the discord of a strain—

Parting, ay parting with its only love:

Thine eyes the jangle of wild beams,

Mid night they vainly would displace,

Riot wildest fears, and wilder dreams!

Woe for thy little face left so forlorn!

Woe of its weft and woof untwined,

The stuff of all its gold aimless and torn,

Dropping, ay dropping from its loom away!

All its devotion unconfined:

Distress of thy gold face—ah, well-a-day!

Woe for thy little face in solitude,

Woe of its lost, unfolded looks!—

The wonder, shattered by disquietude...

Clearly, ay, clearly sudden, the one thing,

Beyond what any wonder brooks,

That love was gone, was gone a'wandering!

Past all the sorrow of that severance now,

Past, and for evermore forgot;

Perfect the music; seamless, little Chow,

Woven, enwoven thy gold threads of life;

Unshepherded, unsheltered not

Thy love looks with a wilderness at strife!

♣ XIII. MY CUP.



HOW, thou hast drunk the bitter  
cup—

Love unto death,

That makes love free and lifts it up  
To heaven and its own breath:  
So God gave death  
To His Beloved, as we  
Gave it to thee.

Oh, 'twas a sacramental Cup—  
Death given for Love!  
We bade thy little spirit sup  
With First and Last above,  
When of our love  
We made thee free  
Eternally.

#### ♣ XIV. FUR FOR MANDARINS.



TIGER and the tiger-lilly,  
Flower of broom and flower of gilly;  
Gems of every mine and valley  
That have gold and red to rally  
Mists of earth and crystals icy;  
All the fume in coverts spicy  
Where the tiger's furnace cruel  
Draweth victims as to fuel;  
Or where sunset strikes its splendour  
On a stack of oat-plumes slender;  
Where the marigold scowls lusty,  
Though its coat be dun and dusty:  
Where all haunt of colour burneth  
With such glow as never turneth  
From its tropic—thou art golden,  
And in state and place beholden.

XV.



NOW, Now!  
Ever like the sun, the South  
Sparkling sun that floods us from  
the South—

Leaving in our brain no drouth  
For a future, no regret  
Backward, bidding us forget;  
State of bliss that keenly yearns  
On the mortal dust it burns  
At its whole eternal heart,  
Whence free light and motion start;  
Joy above immediate pain,  
Where no changes wax or wane.

O Now, Now!  
Moment everlasting, thrill  
Of Life's immortality, a thrill  
Never slaked and sweeter still  
When we live as God hath breath,  
Safe beyond those dreams of death—  
What is gone and what shall come,  
Mere annihilation's sum!  
Readiness, sweet Hamlet—true!  
«Readiness is all». Adieu  
To aught else, if we would be  
Present in life's mystery.

O Now, Now!

Little Love, God's Moment, bright,  
Ever with us, yearning bright  
In thine every leap of light,  
In thy spring of instant glance,  
Clear from ebb of circumstance;  
Animate from birth to birth  
Of Life's Moment new on earth,  
Thou art here as sparkling sun  
In thy presence, brightest One.

¶ XVI.



HOU couldst not bear to face the S  
Nor would'st thou ever be  
Where the mound·billows slash up  
the stones;  
Nay, but with little moans,  
The fox·whelp's bark, so wild was thy distress  
Spread·eagled up the sea·banks, thou would'st  
press.

O little cry I shall for ever hear!  
O altercation drear:  
Thou could'st not stay before the presence rude  
Of gross infinitude,  
But straining back to genial earth would'st flee  
Where warm in hearts is sunk infinity.

## ❧ XVII. CREATED.



LONG a hill, among the hills,  
Thou hast burnt over at my side  
In air of seraph-flight that fills  
To amplitude the valleys wide—  
We pace on in liberty.  
Thou art dead, who might not be  
On these living uplands free,  
Nor thy sturdy trot unbound  
On this elemental ground:  
But fast in leash thou didst abide.

Oh, of thy bond, Whym Chow, it came,  
That into thee a soul was breathed;  
And as a brazier holds a flame  
Close of rare incense in it sheathed,  
Thou wert held in capture fraught  
With sweet sacrifice—thy thought  
Never from our presence sought;  
And thy love, in servitude  
To thy loved one's being, rued  
No loss that sealed thee with her name.

For all that is created bears  
A limit scarcely to be borne,  
Till out of it, though unawares,  
A Spirit of new life is drawn:  
So thy love's unfettered soul  
Deathless through thy body stole,

Levying on thy days its toll  
Of subjection—So to-day  
Dead, thou takest living way,  
And with my soul its freedom shares.

♣ XVIII. IN EXTREMIS.



HEN thou wert lying dead, Chow, I was  
at the poles  
Of passion where its world most sharp-  
ly, swiftly rolls,  
In midst of ice, of icebergs riftless and of snow.  
I spoke to thee with voice that panted fast and slow  
Against the force I breathed of that extremest cold,  
While at my heart quick love round its own  
being rolled.



WILD Bacchic Creature, shall we  
grieve  
That the God of Frenzy did not lea  
Thy last days unheightened and forlorn?  
Shall we, as the terror-stricken, mourn  
That on thee the very God descended,  
And with sickness exultation blended?  
Rich upon thy fur the richest fire  
Glowed as from his mother's heaven-struck pyr  
And the motions of his mighty march  
Through the mountain-gorge, the city's arch,  
And lion-shaken plain was in the sway,  
Royal as a procession, of the way  
Thou didst press thy feet. And doom was spui  
In the circles, finished one by one,  
Of thy patient frenzy, Oh, the swing!—  
As when horses, destined to their ring,  
Slow and powerful thresh the autumn grain,  
Dragging with their feet against the strain,  
Bending round the pole, and nobly held  
By the weary rhythm, as music-spelled  
As are stars, though music be unheard.  
Oh, thy revolution never stirred,  
Wondrous circles of inveterate woe,  
Woven by stars, by heroes long ago,  
Drawn through frenzy of a god to song.  
Little Chow, this greatness did belong  
To thy end that, ivy-leaves among,

Thou didst feel the far cool of delight  
On the verges of absorbing madness.  
Seized of fate's dire rhythm, yet with no sadness,  
Thou among the stems of rose-thorn rushed,  
Or the well-loved ivy, leaflets brushed,  
Or the air—as if from Temple lifted  
In high vale and from its columns drifted—  
Came upon thy nostrils, till a sleep  
Fell, the last of doom, and on the steep  
Of Cithæron thou wert laid in death...  
Maiming sleep of frenzy and free breath.

XX.



DOOMED little wanderer, doomed  
to move  
As Lion or Bear in heaven above  
O little star, our woe!...  
Thou wert not of a god en-starred,  
When on thee fell that fortune hard  
To wander here as in the sky  
Those shining Beasts that no more die,  
But in constellation spin.  
Thou wert mortal to begin  
An endless movement so!  
Thy little ruby head, soft, blind—  
What agony when we entwined  
Our arms and fain would hold thee far  
From thy destiny of Star!  
Quiet, sweet, a moment's space:  
Thou would'st rest from charmed pace:...  
As thou saidst No, No!  
Gently then thou would'st pursue  
Still thy Course, soft breaking through  
Our protection from the great  
Doom of thy unearthy fate;  
Courteous, placant, out of noose,  
Pitying love had thrown, let loose,  
Weary, little, ruby head,  
Feet of gold with steps of lead—  
Thou didst pass along the ground  
As a star that rideth round

On its circles in the sky;  
Yet indeed thou had'st to die—  
Yea, and stumbled in the stress  
Of persisting weariness.



XXI. ADVENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS!



—sib or 1a bsd worth bessm 151  
Y arms, my arms are void:  
Nothing created touches their  
embrace;

The substance of embrace hath been de-  
stroyed;

What it clings round, what gives it place—  
As shell around the ruddy chestnut takes  
A mould and station, the red fruit forsakes.

My ears, my ears are still:  
Not deaf of their own selves, but from without  
As flower-cup that the bees were wont to fill  
With boomings, stir with their warm rout  
The haunt to generation, dust  
With love's gold—So my ears, their life out-  
thrust.

Mine eyes, mine eyes are blank:  
What in the light could give them living shape  
And filled their vision with inducement frank  
To see and watch beyond escape  
Is gone; and with indifference light flows by,  
Nothing across it fashioned steadily.

My heart, my heart—ah no!  
Core of my love there art thou ever hard—  
There clasped, there heard, there seen in con-  
stant glow,

In compass of its world enstarred;  
Nothing of sense there vacant seeks its aim:  
Touch, hearing, sight responsive to their name.

O God, O God, O might  
Of Life Creative, let me hold again  
The ruddy form my arms would close on tight,  
Their cynosure my eyes attain;  
Tingle my ears with every sound they loved;  
Oh, re-embody! Be thy Spirit proved.

Yea, give, O give once more  
These things of sense their everlasting dream,  
Strong as the semblance that on earth they wore!  
The very touch, the very beam  
To hold the loved One—on the ear his voice  
And breath. Oh, make each waste place to  
rejoice!

XXII.



SLEEPING together: Sleep,  
The lull of thy breath on the air  
That held the lull of our breath there  
Or movements in that former deep  
Of night that was before the world—  
Movements of thy form re-curled,  
On a sigh, a pearl in seas  
Shut down dark in mysteries;  
Or a snuffling by the bed  
Of thy fair-created head;  
All of Genesis from dense  
Covert gloom, till, issuing thence,  
Motion, sigh of heart, caress  
Came through sable void to bless.

Eating together: food,  
Rest of continuance! Like a Song  
To feel it made us blithe and strong!  
To see thee greet with us the good  
Of such nurture as could hold  
Thee so eager, bright and bold,  
We with all our deeds and dreams  
Re-illumed, as were the gleams  
Of thy savouring body, till  
Complement of power did fill  
Thee and us, that side by side  
We in newness might abide.

Breathing together: breath,  
The friendship of all things with us,  
The means by which just then and thus  
What word the sun in sunshine saith  
We could hear and welcome it,  
By our mingled eyes sunlit.  
And of breath we shared the breeze,  
Listened to the mammering trees,  
Elf possessed to make such sound;  
Or against the river's bound  
With thrilled trepidation ran.  
Yea, of breath, the breath of man  
And of beast we knew the spell.  
Of our bodies, relished well.

Loving together, love,  
The flame that even in locked-up sleep  
Had place, as in the rock, closed deep,  
Is set the spark with rock above;  
That in our morning-open eyes  
Took on flash of full replies—  
From the couch, where thou had'st slept,  
To our bed unwavering leapt,  
And from us in thee would light  
All the sanctuaries of sight:  
Flame that, did we only eat,  
Made a sacrifice of meat,  
Something eaten from the fire  
That had brought a god down nigher:  
Flame that while we breathed made air

As itself a warmth and fair  
Shining through us of content—  
Life with sacred passion blent.

Joying together: joy,  
The call to us of ivy, pine  
And a Voice of One divine  
Who kindled the wild creatures coy  
Even as he kindled women, men  
Into choruses and then  
Set them to life's dance of praise,  
Rhythmic over devious ways;  
Who with flambeaux hung bright spears,  
Lifted panthers' tingling ears,  
Taught the bliss that must express  
Unity of blessedness  
When a god to mortal things  
Their delight for worship brings.

Grieving together—No!  
Scarce any sorrow save the dull  
Shades that will mar things beautiful,  
The cloud upon day's promised glow,  
The walk along the hills denied...  
We no longer at thy side!—  
That was absence, deathly space,  
Holding not the Loved One's face,  
Sorrow at Creation's blank  
While drear distance slowly sank  
Coffin-timbers in each heart:

Absence; oh, we grieved apart.  
Now that thou art dead we meet  
Still together in the sweet  
Company of close-drawn breath,  
If we banish grief from death.

XXIII. LIBERAL LOVE.



HY Love... for thy own self thou  
had'st demand;  
But gave of love as Kings give of  
their grace  
Out of the favour found before their face;  
O royal creature, from whose heart was banned  
All that in other love craves or makes store  
For its own hunger. As pure element  
Thy love went out toward its election, blent  
With no self-gain as man's is evermore.  
Oh, when a man loves with demand he comes—  
There is the war of wants and of desires:  
Thy love was as the inner, earliest fires,  
No fathom-line of covetousness plumbs,  
For they sustain the universe. While man  
In his poor passion only would attain,  
They are inviolate to any bane,  
Magnificent, taintless of scheme or plan.  
So was thy love, O little heart, complete  
In gift of fire! Ideal was the scope  
Of plenitude, of freedom from all hope  
Or any claim, as sunshine's vernal sheet.  
So to be loved across the barren days—  
To have what human hearts will scarcely give,  
To be upheld by gift; by fire to live  
Even as the universe! O God, praise, praise!

XXIV.



LOVED Confessionals there are  
Not for penitence, for guilt;  
But for happiness or jar.

Some will find one in the quilt  
Of a turf of roots and flowers,  
With the face upon the mesh  
Dew hath tempered many hours,  
Till the grass smells washed and fresh;  
And the swell against the face,  
And the cold against the eyes  
Quieten grief by kind embrace,  
Give to rapture new surprise.

Some will find one in the sand,  
Face upon the golden store  
Billows lately overspanned  
Till their ebbing left the floor—  
Bed of warm and tranquil grain,  
Only broken by the chip  
Of a white shell or the pain  
Of a pebble 'gainst the lip;  
There the sound of what hath been  
Infinite upon the spot  
Haunts it, though withdrawn unseen—  
Sound that moves, but goeth not.

Others will confess to sweet  
Softness of a breast and lay  
Face to warmth of living heat,  
Sweeter than the warmest day;  
Where beneath the softness heaves  
Tide that never is withdrawn;  
Where the heart that fiercely grieves,  
Rocking, may no longer mourn—  
Smooth as rocking bird at sea;  
Where for joy a throb is found,  
Pulse of mortal sympathy,  
Fountain of a deep profound,

Others to their pillow tell  
All that in their blood they feel;  
On the downy dip and swell  
Hide their faces with appeal  
To a gentleness of curve  
Slumber sculptures for her need,  
Where from slumber's long reserve  
Breaks, as fume from drowsy weed,  
Secret of a powerful ease,  
And a mildness breathed by dreams  
That at morning-time would please,  
Yea, would sun what softly seems.

Pillow, turf, nor sand, nor breast  
As confessional I sought:  
Nay, but down my face was pressed  
In thy wondrous fur, enwrought  
Of the gilded motes of sun,  
And the tongues of ruddy fire,  
And the wool that Jason won  
When—his utmost of desire—  
He had raped his Golden Fleece:  
There I hid my joys and woes,  
There my solitude would cease,  
There my thoughts their travel close.

Dearer would that fur beguile  
Than the pillow's tenderest fold;  
Deeper than the turf, its pile,  
Warmer and more manifold  
In its lulling magic spell  
Than the seashore's golden hum;  
Sweeter of its yielded balm,  
Yea, even sweeter than to come  
To a human breast for calm,  
Since no breast could have such sole  
Comfort of itself to yield,  
No such absolution whole—  
Sorrow buried, joy revealed.

XXV.



WANT you, little Love, not from  
the skies:

To-day I want you in my starving e  
To see your jasper scowl across the brow,  
As precious jasper barred  
Scowls in its substance. I would wonder how  
Thou could'st have ears so soft, yet as a pard  
Such sudden feet. Oh, I would watch the glint  
Of all the wealth the sun from thee could mint-  
Thy paler wool that from the moon would take  
Reflex of sun and into silver break.

I want you with your resolute, fine jaw  
Snapped down to hold one love, one love no m  
Not mine, but hers we love: your glance, the sp  
Prometheus stole as fire,  
A little thing that could remove the dark  
It lived through, making of its haunt a pyre;  
A glance with wayward shifting of pure flame,  
And strength to found a Temple-hearth, be tan  
To worship, but to other curbing wild,  
Nor to sky-robbing earth yet reconciled.

I want you, when to guard our door you rushed,  
In whirlwind loyalty; or when you brushed  
Against the knee your little chin with soft  
Claim for caress, in anxious play  
Still buzzing like a wasp, and claiming oft;  
Or when with wary, pointed nose you lay  
Hearing your mistress praise her doves aloud,  
While of her praise you made a little cloud;  
Or when reverberent as echoed shout  
Your face acclaimed the «Yes» of going out.

I want you with the gold-set, fearful stress  
With which you lived to your one blessedness.  
A herald sure to your Beloved, her sign,  
Her symbol, as the lion we see  
Beside St. Jerome, or the wheel divine  
Set by Egyptian Catharine goldenly...  
Ever thy feet in fourfold trip with those  
They move for; or thy body in repose.  
Cast with a smack against the floor of pride  
As a Knight clanged down by his lady's side.

I want you in your great magnificence  
Of Eastern calm, holding your rage in fence  
Of roses and of jasmine and of grapes:  
Or when in sun and wind you ran,  
Flashing a joy to me such as escapes  
From spirits of untameable, far span,  
Who sometimes mingle in a poet's mirth,  
Having such element of starry earth

In spell about them that their very eyes  
Give and receive terrestrial sympathies.

I want you in your thousand ways of love—  
The rapture of your welcome, far above  
What choral stars as the world rose to them  
Gave in their dance of fire and light—  
A welcome many moments could not stem,  
That fell exhausted with Time's cruel fight,  
Fell down and slept. O little Chow, to see  
These loved and perfect sights avouching the  
Not far away, as visions may appear,  
O apple of our eyes, but with us here!

XXVI.



HEN others are about me and the lips  
Of any other bid me to forget,  
Urge me I must not suffer whole eclipse  
Of light without a rim, nor let  
My tears fall ever—since the dew even slips  
At its own season from the earth washed wet,  
Or bid me seek in other lands to find  
New images to hide thee from my mind—

Then am I desolate nor do I weep;  
A tongueless scream is on my breath for load;  
And thou art in a little grave, deep, deep,  
Scooped in my heart—such small abode  
For thee, a spot so narrow where to keep  
My all, in wood and stone the damps corrode.  
Nay, when we laid thee in thy earthly grave  
No such life-dwindling woe thy burial gave!

And when the others leave me piercingly  
I wheel and cry above my hidden need,  
As sea-birds for their prey beneath the sea:  
Then sudden with a single heed,  
I sink down where my whole desire would be,  
Where I would find my unseen life and feed;  
Lost in my heart my pinions seek their food;  
My heart, a silver sea's infinitude.

A sea—no tomb, no coffin...till again  
Those others write or prattle at my side,  
And bid me take distraction, woo my pain  
To flux of pleasures, travel wide,  
Then through the bitterness of my disdain  
I feel thy grave where lowly thou dost hide,  
And curse these comforters who bring me death  
When I alone with thee feed and draw breath.

♣ XXVII.



ULL of the passions nurtured in  
the wild

And virgin places of the world,

Whym Chow,

Thou camest to thy Mistress, as a child  
Untameable of earth, and none knew how,  
Save she, to mould thy untranslatable,  
And native being, personality  
Risen from primæval force and under spell:  
A solitary creature that must be  
Lone, till there lighted in its heart a star,  
First love. O infinite and savage, yet  
Of sweetest temper as those creatures are  
That never had a hand on them nor let  
Any save Nature's hand approach them near.  
Thou wert far back from anything men write,  
Far deeper in imagination's rear  
Than books can delve or poet's lingering sight  
Reach in the past of ages. Love alone  
Threw on the dark of forests in thy soul  
A flashlight to recesses never shown,  
Where thou wert softly moving to one goal—  
Love of thy Mistress, not of kind—a new  
Compulsion from that Eros who began  
Forth of God's breast the darkness to subdue,  
And lead it to a bliss that stars should span.

XXVIII.



HEN at the Door of Death,  
The white door with the knocker  
of coiled snakes,

Shall I not cease even from my struggling breath?  
Will not my voice stand by my heart that quaketh?  
And call, as life heaves from its mould to dust,  
Call, call for thee: but listen dumb  
If there is breeze of little breath up-thrust  
Against the other side, or happy thrum  
Of little feet upon the inner floor?  
If I but hear those sounds, the bar is gone,  
As if a lava-stream had split the wall;  
No more the serpents and the portal wan,  
A momentary blaze, then blotted out:  
Death never more in front of me at all—  
No knocking at the lintel echoes flout!  
But thou, thou, my bright Flame, my welcome,  
home,  
My joy's first touch... in front even of those forlorn  
That I am rent through Death to reach. O thou,  
My foremost, and my certainty love warms  
The spaces of this space where spirits roam!  
Close, close to me, my Chow,  
My little Chow—for what hath been is passed,  
We dancing glad... Those others come too fast.

♣ XXIX.



CHOW, the Peace of her I love above  
All else, O feeder of her heart forlorn,  
Sustainer of her torn,  
Conflicted Nature with a seamless love!

Her Silence!—Light her, as with torch of fir,  
O little flambeau, that hath never smoked,  
Never grown dim, but ever leapt for her  
Forth of its Bacchic resin; and evoked  
By breath of her alone, would blaze and stir  
Through desolation mountain-mists that choked  
Dead hollows, till its presence came  
Through them triumphant, with unbated flame.

Still love her, little Chow, still love thy Own,  
For solely by thy leaping love she keeps  
Live now on earth; and, of thy light alone,  
By surety of thy brand that never sleeps,  
Will she tread out her wandering with no moan,  
Nor die! Unless thy ruddy flambeau leaps,  
Naught can assuage her grief,  
No mortal nor immortal give relief.

XXX.



« SK and it shall be given thee»—  
Then I ask  
One little spring may well up in  
my heart  
To everlasting life. It is Thy task,  
God of the Waters that impulsive start  
In Love's domain, to keep perpetual  
Their care of life, their circling font at brim,  
Nor to let drowth-delighting waves grow dull,  
Unbreathed on by the winds from rim to rim.  
God of the Living Waters, at Thy hand  
I ask my little Chow's upwelling love  
In liberal current ever, Thy command  
Removing cruel thirst now and above.

THE END.



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