

SECOND CHORUS FROM 'ATALANTA'

BEFORE the beginning of years
 There came to the making of man
 Time, with a gift of tears ;
 Grief, with a glass that ran ;
 Pleasure, with pain for leaven ;
 Summer, with flowers that fell ;
 Remembrance fallen from heaven,
 And madness risen from hell ;
 Strength without hands to smite ;
 Love that endures for a breath :
 Night, the shadow of light,
 And life, the shadow of death.

And the high gods took in hand
 Fire, and the falling of tears,
 And a measure of sliding sand
 From under the feet of the years ;
 And froth and drift of the sea ;
 And dust on the labouring earth ;
 And bodies of things to be
 In the houses of death and of birth ;

And wrought with weeping and laughter,
 And fashioned with loathing and love
 With life before and after
 And death beneath and above,
 For a day and a night and a morrow,
 That his strength might endure for a span
 With travail and heavy sorrow,
 The holy spirit of man.

From the winds of the north and the south
 They gathered as unto strife;
 They breathed upon his mouth,
 They filled his body with life;
 Eyesight and speech they wrought
 For the veils of the soul therein,
 A time for labour and thought,
 A time to serve and to sin;
 They gave him light in his ways,
 And love, and a space for delight,
 And beauty and length of days,
 And night, and sleep in the night.
 His speech is a burning fire;
 With his lips he travaileth;
 In his heart is a blind desire,
 In his eyes foreknowledge of death;
 He weaves, and is clothed with derision;
 Sows, and he shall not reap;
 His life is a watch or a vision
 Between a sleep and a sleep.