

THE ROCK

I am a star! I whirl and blaze! I set
Planets above me, play
My part in the great game of life, though yet
I hardly know the rules, and day by day
Pain purges ignorance!
The captain? Fate or Chance?
The end? The plan? If end or plan there be!
I know not, nor can know;
Why worry? I cannot see
Whence came I, whither I go.
I know not who I am,
Nor what, but Will's my lance, and Love's my oriflamme.

A star, adrift in space! A soul, afloat
In the æther! Absolute,
Unique, eternal, God and man, a mote,
May be, but free my will to execute.
Love is my charioteer:
With the whip of Pride and Fear,
Wisdom and understanding for his reins,
He masters the wild horses
Bred of my heart and brain,
The incalculable forces
Of a man—drive on! we'll race
The Sun from Here to Now to the end of Time and Space!

The Rock

By Michael Fairfax

SEAWARD my terrace—seaward from the hill
Is open; iris and geranium
Fledge it; beyond, the wardens of my will,
Stand olive, mulberry, almond; stern and still
Cypress and ilex. Then uprears its dumb
Portent the Rock, the town's Palladium—
Callous to its man-vermin's good or ill
For æons past, for chiliads to come!
The sea's eternal siege, the sky's disdain,
The earth's convulsions have not stirred its base.