

## THE FOUR WINDS

THE South wind said to the palms:  
My lovers sing me psalms;  
But are they as warm as those  
That Laylah's lover knows?

The North wind said to the firs:  
I have my worshippers;  
But are they as keen as hers?

The East wind said to the cedars:  
My friends are no seceders;  
But is their faith to me  
As firm as his faith must be?

The West wind said to the yews:  
My children are pure as dews;  
But what of her lover's muse?

So to spite the summer weather  
The four winds howled together.  
But a great Voice from above  
Cried: What do you know of love?

Do you think all nature worth  
The littlest life upon earth?

I made the germ and the ant,  
The tiger and elephant.

In the least of these there is more  
Than your elemental war.

And the lovers whom ye slight  
Are precious in my sight.

Peace to your mischief-brewing!  
I love to watch their wooing.

Of all this Laylah heard.  
Never a word.

She lay beneath the trees.  
With her lover at her knees.

He sang of God above  
And of love.

She lay at his side  
Well satisfied,

And at set of sun.  
They were one.

Before they slept her pure smile curled;  
"God bless all lovers in the World!"

And so say I the self-same word;  
Nor doubt God heard.