

## 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.