

The Arkham Sampler

Summer 1949

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HIEROGLYPHICS

by VINCENT STARRETT

The way that smoke twists upward in the sky:
The form a cloud takes slowly drifting by:
The dimness hanging over distant hills:
The shapes of snowflakes on the window sills:
The haunting faces flowers lift at dawn:
The furtive tears I find upon my lawn . . .
Little familiar things in alien guise
That overwhelm with exigent surmise.

The song a kettle sings upon the fire:
The solemn finger of a sudden spire:
The drone of bees and water faintly heard:
The silver query of a secret bird:
The gaze of friendly beast: a curious shell:
The second echo of a far off bell . . .
Tremendous trifles! Bell and wing and glow:
What do they mean? Something I almost know.