# The Arkham Sampler

## Summer 1949

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#### **OBLIVION**

### by Jose-Maria de Heredia translated by Clark Ashton Smith

The temple's ruin crowns the promontory. Close-shrouded with the root-enwoven sod, The marble goddess, the bronze demigod, Mingle their broken and their tarnished glory.

Sometimes a lonely herdsman, going past With horn that sobs some plangent old refrain Filling the air and the calm seas again, Arises darkly on the clear blue vast.

Mother of gods, the mellowing earth will teem, And all the vain sweet eloquence of spring A fresh acanthus for the column bring;

But man, oblivious of his father's dream, Untrembling hears the Nereusean moan Of ocean grieving for the sirens flown.