

## Revelation

In a vale of light and laughter,  
Smiling 'neath the friendly sun,  
Where fulfilment follow'd after  
Ev'ry hope or dream begun;  
Where an Aidenn, gay and glorious,  
Beckon'd down the winsome way;  
There my soul, o'er pain victorious,  
Laugh'd and linger'd—yesterday.

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Green and narrow was my valley,  
Temper'd with a verdant shade;  
Sun-deck'd brooklets musically  
Sparkled thro' each gorgeous glade;  
And at night the stars serenely  
Glow'd betwixt the boughs o'erhead,  
While Astarte, calm and queenly,  
Floods of fairy radiance shed.

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## II. FANTASY AND HORROR

There amid the tinted bowers,  
 Raptur'd with the opiate spell  
 Of the grasses, ferns, and flowers,  
 Poppy, phlox, and pimpernel, 20  
 Long I lay, entranc'd and dreaming,  
 Pleas'd with Nature's bounteous store,  
 Till I mark'd the shaded gleaming  
 Of the sky, and yearn'd for more.

Eagerly the branches tearing, 25  
 Clear'd I all the space above,  
 Till the bolder gaze, high faring,  
 Scann'd the naked skies of Jove;  
 Deeps unguess'd now shone before me,  
 Splendid beam'd the solar car; 30  
 Wings of fervid fancy bore me  
 Out beyond the farthest star.

Reaching, grasping, wishing, longing  
 For the pageant brought to sight,  
 Vain I watch'd the gold orbs thronging  
 Round celestial poles of light. 35  
 Madly on a moonbeam ladder  
 Heav'n's abyss I sought to scale,  
 Ever wiser, ever sadder,  
 As the fruitless task would fail. 40

Then, with futile striving sated,  
 Veer'd my soul to earth again,  
 Well content that I was fated  
 For a fair, yet low domain;  
 Pleasing thoughts of glad tomorrows, 45  
 Like the blissful moments past,  
 Lull'd to rest my transient sorrows,  
 Still'd my godless greed at last.

But my downward glance, returning,  
 Shrank in fright from what it spy'd;  
 Slopes in hideous torment burning,  
 Terror in the brooklet's ride; 50  
 For the dell, of shade denuded  
 By my desecrating hand,  
 'Neath the bare sky blaz'd and brooded  
 As a lost, accursed land. 55