I am the hush of calm,
I am the speed,
The flood-tide's triumphing psalm,
The marsh-pool's heed.
I work in the rocking roar
Where cataracts fall;
I flash in the prismy fire that dances o'er
The dew's ephemeral ball.

I am the voice of wind
And wave and tree,
Of stern desires and blind,
Of strength to be;
I am the cry by night,
At point of dawn;
The summoning bugle from the unseen height,
In clouds and doubt withdrawn.

I am the strife that shapes
The stature of man,
The pang no hero escapes,
The blessing, the ban;
I am the hammer that moulds
The iron of our race;
The omen of God in our blood that a people beholds,
The foreknowledge veiled in our face.

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