

LOVE AND THE UNIVERSE

Amid the hills of Nazareth I learned
God's providence; I trusted Him, while there
Upon the trees I swung my axe to cleave
For highest uses; so, trust thou. No more
Look forth and back, but upward, inwardly,
To those strong hills of help that rise within
Where Love's true kingdom is. Put off the veil
Of forms that hide with outward wrappings
The pulsings of God's heart. Then shall thy soul
Find joy and beauty in His wholesome law,
Thy life be one great passion for His will.

The word of God by which we know His heart
Is that unfathomable, ceaseless tide
Of His benevolence that we call life,
The school in which the lessons of His Law
Are learned. The trustful heart submits with joy
To discipline of Love, seeing God knows
Too well our awful need to humour our desire.
Self-love is blind as stone, but love that gives
Its life to others hath a thousand eyes.
The sternest law ordained by Love is kind.
The lesser good is evil in God's sight,
Who wills for each the best; but for the child,
Who knows no better thing,—not yet aware
Of Love's benign intent—to lose its best
Seems evil, though it bring the higher good.
The things we cannot help are all benign.
In them God hath His will, which, in the light,
We find are better than our best.

I came
To bear the burdens of the poor, unbind
The slave and make the mourner glad, to curb