

and interpretation, satisfying himself with the statement that "in the first half of the poem the agency of an avenging daemon is in the ascendant; in the second, the prevailing power of an angel band."<sup>17</sup> It does not greatly help us to learn from him in his next chapter that "the bloody sun stands right up above the mast in a hot and copper sky, not for its own sake as a lucidly exact delineation of a galaxy of images, but as a great sea-mark in the controlling outline of the voyage,"<sup>18</sup> since his elucidation of the Sun-symbol really goes no farther; nor that "the moon in *The Ancient Mariner*, like the sun, is more than a luminary in the sky," as he says in the chapter on "The Journeying Moon". We must accept these statements and be grateful for the wealth of research that validate and confirm them and a thousand others, yet for myself I cannot but feel the imaginative necessity of reconstructing the allegory in terms of more definite spiritual meaning and inner harmony. As Lamb told Southey, there are "fifty passages as miraeulous as the miracles they celebrate."<sup>19</sup> I am aware of the dangers that beset any effort at the interpretation of allegory. "Truth is this to me and that to thee." And yet, with the great examples of Bridges and Colvin in their respective interpretations of *Endymion*, and of many another patient believer in the right of great poetry to be understood and appreciated in its largest and its subtlest values alike, it has seemed worth while to offer this contribution.

It should be added, in conclusion, that the resolved dualism of Part VII does not require the final presence of either Sun or Moon, since both of the Divine functions which these two respectively represent have been harmonized as necessary and interdependent. This persistent dualism, monistically resolved, is of the very bones and blood of the ballad as a whole. The major symbols, Sun and Moon, First Voice and Second

<sup>17</sup>Lowes, *op. cit.* p. 294.      <sup>18</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 306.

<sup>19</sup>Lamb's Letter to Robert Southey, Nov. 8, 1798.