

And still the fascination grew  
The while he spoke and gazed around  
Upon a scene so fair to view;  
I stood as on enchanted ground.

"Your pardon, Sir, but may I know  
By what kind chance," continued he,  
"This meeting is? pray you allow  
An old man's curiosity.

"For I have sat full many an hour,  
Between the midnight and the dawn,  
Upon this silent moonlit shore,  
Nor oft have met the form of man.

"And now to greet a stranger here  
At this lone hour may well excite  
Surprise in one, long worshipper  
And sole companion of the night."

"A wakeful disposition, Sir,  
Disturbed me as at eve I lay,  
A traveller at the village there,  
My resting place since yesterday.

"And I, despairing of repose,  
And seeing that the night was clear,  
And the moon beautiful, arose  
To view the scene and wander here."