
Reflection

That I had ever known the boundless joy
And raptured awe that bore th' aspiring soul
In fancy's wildest ecstasy afar
In realms of grand romance! Had I but known
The charm that Hope extends to them that strive,
I might not now have felt what 'tis to fail
And lose her grace withal. Alas, bright Hope,
That I too late must learn that here below
Grim smiling Evil follows fast upon
And in proportion to the promised joy
That leads the aspiring way!

And still withal
Though I no more shall know thee in this world
Of conscious being, yet will I delight
To treasure thee in memory's fondest dreams,
And dwell upon thine all untiring zeal
And fervent love for me! In all my dreams,
Thy spirit shall preside and haunt my soul