

LOVE AND THE UNIVERSE

Therefore the great masters of the past who came under the Spell, were forever trying to reconcile the earth and the sky. Milton, the magnificent apologist; Shakespeare, a frank materialist with his great bursts of etherealism; Dante, whose sky-worlds are so delightfully mediæval; all illustrate a world not yet awakened to the conviction that Robert Browning sounded so surely later on:

All good things
Are ours, nor soul helps flesh more, now, than flesh
Helps soul.

Then Walt Whitman came singing through the land the chant of the Universal Good, and God in everything: and after him arose a perfect flood of the new song in which Poetry found herself at last a being not more of earth than air, not less of God than man, but fashioned, like the earth which bore her, for the uses of evolution, to be new-created by the thought of men's hearts, passing from one revelation of truth to another.

So, happily, our writers still make odes