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SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS

FROM fairest creatures we desire increase,
That thereby beauty's rose might never die,
But as the riper should by time decrease,
His tender heir might bear his memory;

But thou, contracted to thine own bright eyes,
Feed'st thy light's flame with self-substantial fuel,
Making a famine where abundance lies,
Thyself thy foe, to thy sweet self too cruel.

Thou, that art now the world's fresh ornament
And only herald to the gaudy spring,
Within thine own bud buriest thy content
And tender churl, mak'st waste in niggarding.

Pity the world, or else this glutton be,
To eat the world's due, by the grave and thee.
Miscellaneous decoration from Book Decorations by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, New York: The Grolier Club, 1931. Call no. 741.64 G58
N jutting cape the ruined temple stands,
And Death has strewn upon the tawny ground
Heroes of bronze and marble Goddesses
Whose fame the solitary herb enshrouds.
Only at times a herdsman where he leads
His buffaloes to drink, and from his couch
Sends forth an ancient tune o’er the wide main,
Lifts his black form against the boundless sky.
Earth, to the ancient Gods a mother kind,
Each spring makes bloom all vainly eloquent
A new acanthus round the capital.
But man, for dreams ancestral caring naught,
Hears without shudder in the silent nights
The sea that mourns in tears her Sirens lost.
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