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1816

WHY DID I LAUGH TO-NIGHT? NO VOICE WILL TELL  
by John Keats

Why did I laugh to-night? No voice will tell:  
No God, no Demon of severe response,  
Deigns to reply from Heaven or from Hell.  
Then to my human heart I turn at once.  
Heart! Thou and I are here sad and alone;  
I say, why did I laugh! O mortal pain!  
O Darkness! Darkness! ever must I moan,  
To question Heaven and Hell and Heart in vain.  
Why did I laugh? I know this Being's lease,  
My fancy to its utmost blisses spreads;  
Yet would I on this very midnight cease,

And the world's gaudy ensigns see in shreds.  
Verse, Fame, and Beauty are intense indeed,  
But Death intenser- Death is Life's high meed.

THE END

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