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1816  
ON SITTING DOWN TO READ KING LEAR ONCE AGAIN  
by John Keats

O golden tongued Romance, with serene lute!  
Fair plumed Syren, Queen of far-away!  
Leave melodizing on this wintry day,  
Shut up thine olden pages, and be mute:  
Adieu! for once again the fierce dispute  
Betwixt damnation and impassion'd clay  
Must I burn through; once more humbly assay  
The bitter-sweet of this Shakespearian fruit.  
Chief Poet! and ye clouds of Albion,  
Begetters of our deep eternal theme!  
When through the old oak Forest I am gone,

Let me not wander in a barren dream,  
But when I am consumed in the fire,  
Give me new Phoenix wings to fly at my desire.

THE END

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