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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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