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1816

WHEN I HAVE FEARS THAT I MAY CEASE TO BE  
by John Keats

When I have fears that I may cease to be  
Before my pen has glean'd my teeming brain,  
Before high-piled books in charact'ry  
Hold like rich garners the full ripen'd grain;  
When I behold upon the night's starr'd face  
Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance,  
And think that I may never live to trace  
Their shadows with the magic hand of chance;  
And when I feel, fair creature of an hour,  
That I shall never look upon thee more,  
Never have relish in the faery power

Of unreflecting love;- then on the shore  
Of the wide world I stand alone, and think  
Till love and fame to nothingness do sink.

THE END

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