

# *Kahil gibran beauty*

*AND a poet said, Speak to us of Beauty.*

*And he answered:*

*Where shall you seek beauty, and how  
shall you find her unless she herself be your  
way and your guide?*

*And how shall you speak of her except  
she be the weaver of your speech?*

*The aggrieved and the injured say,  
"Beauty is kind and gentle.  
Like a young mother half-shy of her  
own glory she walks among us."*

*And the passionate say, "Nay, beauty is  
a thing of might and dread.  
Like the tempest she shakes the earth  
beneath us and the sky above us."*

*The tired and the weary say, "beauty is  
of soft whisperings. She speaks in our spirit.  
Her voice yields to our silences like a faint  
light that quivers in fear of the shadow."*

*But the restless say, "We have heard her  
shouting among the mountains,  
And with her cries came the sound of  
hoofs, and the beating of wings and the  
roaring of lions."*

*At night the watchmen of the city say,  
"Beauty shall rise with the dawn from the  
east."*

*And at noontide the toilers and the way-  
farers say, "we have seen her leaning over  
the earth from the windows of the sunset."*

*In winter say the snow-bound, "She shall  
come with the spring leaping upon the hills."*

*And in the summer heat the reapers say,  
"We have seen her dancing with the autumn  
leaves, and we saw a drift of snow in her  
hair."*

*All these things have you said of beauty,  
Yet in truth you spoke not of her but of  
needs unsatisfied,  
And beauty is not a need but an ecstasy.*

*It is not a mouth thirsting nor an empty  
hand stretched forth,  
But rather a heart enflamed and a soul en-  
chanted.*

*It is not the image you would see nor  
the song you would hear,  
But rather an image you see though you  
close your eyes and a song you hear though  
you shut your ears.*

*It is not the sap within the furrowed bark,  
nor a wing attached to a claw,  
But rather a garden for ever in bloom and  
a flock of angels for ever in flight.*

*People of Orphalese, beauty is life when  
life unveils her holy face.*

*But you are life and you are the veil.*

*Beauty is eternity gazing at itself in a mirror.*

*But you are eternity and you are the mirror.*