Track 8: Canto Three, Section 4, lines 575 to 786

575  Oft inspiration with her lightning feet,
     A sudden messenger from the all-seeing tops,
Traversed the soundless corridors of his mind
     Bringing her rhythmic sense of hidden things.
     A music spoke transcending mortal speech.

580  As if from a golden phial of the All-Bliss,
     A joy of light, a joy of sudden sight,
A rapture of the thrilled undying Word
     Poured into his heart as into an empty cup,
     A repetition of God’s first delight

585  Creating in a young and virgin Time.
     In a brief moment caught, a little space,
All-Knowledge packed into great wordless thoughts
     Lodged in the expectant stillness of his depths
     A crystal of the ultimate Absolute,

590  A portion of the inexpressible Truth
     Revealed by silence to the silent soul.
     The intense creatrix in his stillness wrought;
     Her power fallen speechless grew more intimate;
She looked upon the seen and the unforeseen,

595  Unguessed domains she made her native field.
     All-vision gathered into a single ray,
     As when the eyes stare at an invisible point
Till through the intensity of one luminous spot
     An apocalypse of a world of images

600  Enters into the kingdom of the seer.
     A great nude arm of splendour suddenly rose;
     It rent the gauze opaque of Nescience:
Her lifted finger’s keen unthinkable tip
     Bared with a stab of flame the closed Beyond.

605  An eye awake in voiceless heights of trance,
     A mind plucking at the unimaginable,
Overleaping with a sole and perilous bound
     The high black wall hiding superconscience,
She broke in with inspired speech for scythe

610  And plundered the Unknowable’s vast estate.
     A gleaner of infinitesimal grains of Truth,
     A sheaf-binder of infinite experience,
     She pierced the guarded mysteries of World-Force
And her magic methods wrapped in a thousand veils;

615  Or she gathered the lost secrets dropped by Time
     In the dust and crannies of his mounting route
Mid old forsaken dreams of hastening Mind
And buried remnants of forgotten space.
     A traveller between summit and abyss,

620  She joined the distant ends, the viewless deeps,
     Or streaked along the roads of Heaven and Hell
Pursuing all knowledge like a questing hound.
     A reporter and scribe of hidden wisdom talk,
     Her shining minutes of celestial speech,

625  Passed through the masked office of the occult mind,
     Transmitting gave to prophet and to seer
     The inspired body of the mystic Truth.
A recorder of the inquiry of the gods,
Spokesman of the silent seeings of the Supreme,
630 She brought immortal words to mortal men.

Above the reason’s brilliant slender curve,
Released like radiant air dimming a moon,
635 Broad spaces of a vision without line
Or limit swam into his spirit’s ken.

Oceans of being met his voyaging soul
Calling to infinite discovery;
640 Timeless domains of joy and absolute power
Stretched out surrounded by the eternal hush;
The ways that lead to endless happiness

Ran like dream-smiles through meditating vasts:
645 Disclosed stood up in a gold moment’s blaze
White sun-steppes in the pathless Infinite.

Along a naked curve in bournless Self
The points that run through the closed heart of things
650 Shadowed the indeterminable line
That carries the Everlasting through the years.
The magician order of the cosmic Mind
Coercing the freedom of infinity
655 With the stark array of Nature’s symbol facts
And life’s incessant signals of event,
Transmuted chance recurrences into laws,
660 A chaos of signs into a universe.
Out of the rich wonders and the intricate whorls
Of the spirit’s dance with Matter as its mask
665 The balance of the world’s design grew clear,
Its symmetry of self-arranged effects
Managed in the deep perspectives of the soul,
And the realism of its illusive art,
670 Its logic of infinite intelligence,

Its magic of a changing eternity.
A glimpse was caught of things for ever unknown:
The letters stood out of the unmoving Word:
675 In the immutable nameless Origin
Was seen emerging as from fathomless seas

The trail of the Ideas that made the world,
And, sown in the black earth of Nature’s trance,
The seed of the Spirit’s blind and huge desire
680 From which the tree of cosmos was conceived
And spread its magic arms through a dream of space.

Immense realities took on a shape:
There looked out from the shadow of the Unknown
The bodiless Namelessness that saw God born
685 And tries to gain from the mortal’s mind and soul
A deathless body and a divine name.

The immobile lips, the great surreal wings,
The visage masked by superconscious Sleep,
690 The eyes with their closed lids that see all things,
Appeared of the Architect who builds in trance.
The original Desire born in the Void
Peer out; he saw the hope that never sleeps,
695 The feet that run behind a fleeting fate,
The ineffable meaning of the endless dream.
Hardly for a moment glimpsed viewless to Mind,
As if a torch held by a power of God,
The radiant world of the everlasting Truth
Glimmered like a faint star bordering the night
Above the golden Overmind’s shimmering ridge.
Even were caught as through a cunning veil
The smile of love that sanctions the long game,
The calm indulgence and maternal breasts
Of Wisdom suckling the child-laughter of Chance,
Silence, the nurse of the Almighty’s power,
The omniscient hush, womb of the immortal Word,
And of the Timeless the still brooding face,
The inspiring goddess entered a mortal’s breast,
Made there her study of divining thought
And sanctuary of prophetic speech
And sat upon the tripod seat of mind:
All was made wide above, all lit below.
In darkness’ core she dug out wells of light,
On the undiscovered depths imposed a form,
Lent a vibrant cry to the unuttered vasts,
And through great shoreless, voiceless, starless breadths
Bore earthward fragments of revealing thought
Hewn from the silence of the Ineffable.
A Voice in the heart uttered the unspoken Name,
A dream of seeking Thought wandering through Space
Entered the invisible and forbidden house:
The treasure was found of a supernal Day.
In the deep subconscient glowed her jewel-lamp;
Lifted, it showed the riches of the Cave
Where, by the miser traffickers of sense
Unused, guarded beneath Night’s dragon paws,
In folds of velvet darkness draped they sleep
Whose priceless value could have saved the world.
A darkness carrying morning in its breast
Looked for the eternal wide returning gleam,
Waiting the advent of a larger ray
And rescue of the lost herds of the Sun.
In a splendid extravagance of the waste of God
Dropped carelessly in creation’s spendthrift work,
Left in the chantiers of the bottomless world
And stolen by the robbers of the Deep,
The golden shekels of the Eternal lie,
Hoarded from touch and view and thought’s desire,
Locked in blind antres of the ignorant flood,
Lest men should find them and be even as Gods.
A vision lightened on the viewless heights,
A wisdom illumined from the voiceless depths:
A deeper interpretation greatened Truth,
A grand reversal of the Night and Day;
All the world’s values changed heightening life’s aim;
A wiser word, a larger thought came in
Than what the slow labour of human mind can bring,
A secret sense awoke that could perceive
A Presence and a Greatness everywhere.
The universe was not now this senseless whirl
Borne round inert on an immense machine;
It cast away its grandiose lifeless front,
A mechanism no more or work of Chance,
But a living movement of the body of God.
A spirit hid in forces and in forms
Was the spectator of the mobile scene:
The beauty and the ceaseless miracle
Let in a glow of the Unmanifest:
The formless Everlasting moved in it
Seeking its own perfect form in souls and things.
Life kept no more a dull and meaningless shape.
In the struggle and upheaval of the world
He saw the labour of a godhead's birth.
A secret knowledge masked as Ignorance;
Fate covered with an unseen necessity
The game of chance of an omnipotent Will.
A glory and a rapture and a charm,
The All-Blissful sat unknown within the heart;
Earth's pains were the ransom of its imprisoned delight.
A glad communion tinged the passing hours;
The days were travellers on a destined road,
The nights companions of his musing spirit.
A heavenly impetus quickened all his breast;
The trudge of Time changed to a splendid march;
The divine Dwarf towered to unconquered worlds,
Earth grew too narrow for his victory.
Once only registering the heavy tread
Of a blind Power on human littleness,
Life now became a sure approach to God,
Existence a divine experiment
And cosmos the soul's opportunity.
The world was a conception and a birth
Of Spirit in Matter into living forms,
And Nature bore the Immortal in her womb,
That she might climb through him to eternal life.
His being lay down in bright immobile peace
And bathed in wells of pure spiritual light;
It wandered in wide fields of wisdom-self
Lit by the rays of an everlasting sun.
Even his body's subtle self within
Could raise the earthly parts towards higher things
And feel on it the breath of heavenlier air.
Already it journeyed towards divinity:
Upbuoyed upon winged winds of rapid joy,
Upheld to a Light it could not always hold,
It left mind's distance from the Truth supreme
And lost life's incapacity for bliss.
All now suppressed in us began to emerge.