

Stray Birds

Rabindranath Tagore

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Rabindranath Tagore

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To
T. HARA
of
Yokohama

Stray Birds

1

STRAY birds of summer come to my window to sing and fly away.
And yellow leaves of autumn, which have no songs, flutter and fall there with a sigh.

Stray Birds

2

O TROUPE of little vagrants of the world, leave your footprints in my words.

Stray Birds

3

THE world puts off its mask of vastness to its lover.
It becomes small as one song, as one kiss of the eternal.

Stray Birds

4

IT is the tears of the earth that keep her smiles in bloom.

Stray Birds

5

THE mighty desert is burning for the love of a blade of grass who shakes her head and laughs and flies away.

Stray Birds

6

IF you shed tears when you miss the sun, you also miss the stars.

Stray Birds

7

THE sands in your way beg for your song and your movement, dancing water. Will you carry the burden of their lameness?

Stray Birds

8

HER wistful face haunts my dreams like the rain at night.

Stray Birds

9

ONCE we dreamt that we were strangers.
We wake up to find that we were dear to each other.

Stray Birds

10

SORROW is hushed into peace in my heart like the evening among the silent trees.

Stray Birds

11

SOME unseen fingers, like idle breeze, are playing upon my heart the music of the ripples.

"WHAT language is thine, O sea?"
"The language of eternal question."
"What language is thy answer, O sky?"
"The language of eternal silence."

Stray Birds

13

LISTEN, my heart, to the whispers of the world with which it makes love to you.

Stray Birds

14

THE mystery of creation is like the darkness of night—it is great. Delusions of knowledge are like the fog of the morning.

Stray Birds

15

DO not seat your love upon a precipice because it is high.

Stray Birds

16

I SIT at my window this morning where the world like a passer-by stops for a moment, nods to me and goes.

Stray Birds

17

THESE little thoughts are the rustle of leaves; they have their whisper of joy in my mind.

Stray Birds

18

WHAT you are you do not see, what you see is your shadow.

Stray Birds

19

MY wishes are fools, they shout across thy songs, my Master.
Let me but listen.

Stray Birds

20

I CANNOT choose the best.
The best chooses me.

Stray Birds

21

THEY throw their shadows before them who carry their lantern on their back.

THAT I exist is a perpetual surprise which is life.

Stray Birds

23

"WE, the rustling leaves, have a voice that answers the storms, but who are you so silent?"
"I am a mere flower."

REST belongs to the work as the eyelids to the eyes.

MAN is a born child, his power is the power of growth.

GOD expects answers for the flowers he sends us, not for the sun and the earth.

Stray Birds

27

THE light that plays, like a naked child, among the green leaves happily knows not that man can lie.

Stray Birds

28

O BEAUTY, find thyself in love, not in the flattery of thy mirror.

MY heart beats her waves at the shore of the world and writes upon it her signature in tears with the words, "I love thee."

"MOON, for what do you wait?"

"To salute the sun for whom I must make way."

THE trees come up to my window like the yearning voice of the dumb earth.

HIS own mornings are new surprises to God.

LIFE finds its wealth by the claims of the world, and its worth by the claims of love.

THE dry river-bed finds no thanks for its past.

Stray Birds

35

THE bird wishes it were a cloud. The cloud wishes it were a bird.

THE waterfall sings, "I find my song, when I find my freedom."

I CANNOT tell why this heart languishes in silence.
It is for small needs it never asks, or knows or remembers.

Stray Birds

38

WOMAN, when you move about in your household service your limbs sing like a hill stream among its pebbles.

THE sun goes to cross the Western sea, leaving its last salutation to the East.

Stray Birds

40

DO not blame your food because you have no appetite.

Stray Birds

41

THE trees, like the longings of the earth, stand a-tiptoe to peep at the heaven.

Stray Birds

42

YOU smiled and talked to me of nothing and I felt that for this I had been waiting long.

Stray Birds

43

THE fish in the water is silent, the animal on the earth is noisy, the bird in the air is singing,
But Man has in him the silence of the sea, the noise of the earth and the music of the air.

Stray Birds

44

THE world rushes on over the strings of the lingering heart making the music of sadness.

HE has made his weapons his gods. When his weapons win he is defeated himself.

GOD finds himself by creating.

Stray Birds

47

SHADOW, with her veil drawn, follows Light in secret meekness, with her silent steps of love.

THE stars are not afraid to appear like fireflies.

Stray Birds

49

I THANK thee that I am none of the wheels of power but I am one with the living creatures that are crushed by it.

THE mind, sharp but not broad, sticks at every point but does not move.

YOUR idol is shattered in the dust to prove that God's dust is greater than your idol.

MAN does not reveal himself in his history, he struggles up through it.

WHILE the glass lamp rebukes the earthen for calling it cousin, the moon rises, and the glass lamp, with a bland smile, calls her, "My dear, dear sister."

Stray Birds

54

LIKE the meeting of the seagulls and the waves we meet and come near. The seagulls fly off, the waves roll away and we depart.

Stray Birds

55

MY day is done, and I am like a boat drawn on the beach, listening to the dance–music of the tide in the evening.

LIFE is given to us, we earn it by giving it.

WE come nearest to the great when we are great in humility.

THE sparrow is sorry for the peacock at the burden of its tail.

Stray Birds

59

NEVER be afraid of the moments—thus sings the voice of the everlasting.

Stray Birds

60

THE hurricane seeks the shortest road by the no-road, and suddenly ends its search in the Nowhere.

TAKE my wine in my own cup, friend.
It loses its wreath of foam when poured into that of others.

THE Perfect decks itself in beauty for the love of the Imperfect.

GOD says to man, "I heal you therefore I hurt, love you therefore punish."

THANK the flame for its light, but do not forget the lampholder standing in the shade with constancy of patience.

Stray Birds

65

TINY grass, your steps are small, but you possess the earth under your tread.

THE infant flower opens its bud and cries, "Dear World, please do not fade."

Stray Birds

67

GOD grows weary of great kingdoms, but never of little flowers.

WRONG cannot afford defeat but Right can.

"I GIVE my whole water in joy," sings the waterfall, "though little of it is enough for the thirsty."

WHERE is the fountain that throws up these flowers in a ceaseless outbreak of ecstasy?

THE woodcutter's axe begged for its handle from the tree.
The tree gave it.

Stray Birds

72

IN my solitude of heart I feel the sigh of this widowed evening veiled with mist and rain.

CHASTITY is a wealth that comes from abundance of love.

Stray Birds

74

THE mist, like love, plays upon the heart of the hills and brings out surprises of beauty.

WE read the world wrong and say that it deceives us.

Stray Birds

76

THE poet wind is out over the sea and the forest to seek his own voice.

EVERY child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.

THE grass seeks her crowd in the earth.
The tree seeks his solitude of the sky.

MAN barricades against himself.

Stray Birds

80

YOUR voice, my friend, wanders in my heart, like the muffled sound of the sea among these listening pines.

WHAT is this unseen flame of darkness whose sparks are the stars?

Stray Birds

82

LET life be beautiful like summer flowers and death like autumn leaves.

Stray Birds

88

HE who wants to do good knocks at the gate; he who loves finds the gate open.

IN death the many becomes one; in life the one becomes many.
Religion will be one when God is dead.

THE artist is the lover of Nature, therefore he is her slave and her master.

"HOW far are you from me, O Fruit?"
"I am hidden in your heart, O Flower."

Stray Birds

87

THIS longing is for the one who is felt in the dark, but not seen in the day.

"YOU are the big drop of dew under the lotus leaf, I am the smaller one on its upper side," said the dewdrop to the lake.

THE scabbard is content to be dull when it protects the keenness of the sword.

IN darkness the One appears as uniform; in the light the One appears as manifold.

THE great earth makes herself hospitable with the help of the grass.

THE birth and death of the leaves are the rapid whirls of the eddy whose wider circles move slowly among stars.

POWER said to the world, "You are mine.
The world kept it prisoner on her throne.
Love said to the world, "I am thine."
The world gave it the freedom of her house.

THE mist is like the earth's desire. It hides the sun for whom she cries.

BE still, my heart, these great trees are prayers.

THE noise of the moment scoffs at the music of the Eternal.

I THINK of other ages that floated upon the stream of life and love and death and are forgotten, and I feel the freedom of passing away.

THE sadness of my soul is her bride's veil.
It waits to be lifted in the night.

DEATH'S stamp gives value to the coin of life; making it possible to buy with life what is truly precious.

THE cloud stood humbly in a corner of the sky.
The morning crowned it with splendour.

THE dust receives insult and in return offers her flowers.

Stray Birds

102

DO not linger to gather flowers to keep them, but walk on, for flowers will keep themselves blooming all your way.

ROOTS are the branches down in the earth.
Branches are roots in the air.

Stray Birds

104

THE music of the far-away summer flutters around the Autumn seeking its former nest.

DO not insult your friend by lending him merits from your own pocket.

THE touch of the nameless days clings to my heart like mosses round the old tree.

THE echo mocks her origin to prove she is the original.

GOD is ashamed when the prosperous boasts of His special favour.

I CAST my own shadow upon my path, because I have a lamp that has not been lighted.

MAN goes into the noisy crowd to drown his own clamour of silence.

THAT which ends in exhaustion is death, but the perfect ending is in the endless.

THE sun has his simple robe of light. The clouds are decked with gorgeousness.

THE hills are like shouts of children who raise their arms, trying to catch stars.

THE road is lonely in its crowd for it is not loved.

THE power that boasts of its mischiefs is laughed at by the yellow leaves that fall, and clouds that pass by.

Stray Birds

116

THE earth hums to me to-day in the sun, like a woman at her spinning, some ballad of the ancient time in a forgotten tongue.

THE grass-blade is worth of the great world where it grows.

DREAM is a wife who must talk.
Sleep is a husband who silently suffers.

THE night kisses the fading day whispering to his ear, "I am death, your mother. I am to give you fresh birth."

Stray Birds

120

I FEEL, thy beauty, dark night, like that of the loved woman when she has put out the lamp.

Stray Birds

121

I CARRY in my world that flourishes the worlds that have failed.

Stray Birds

122

DEAR friend, I feel the silence of your great thoughts of may a deepening eventide on this beach when I listen to these waves.

THE bird thinks it is an act of kindness to give the fish a lift in the air.

Stray Birds

124

"IN the moon thou sendest thy love letters to me," said the night to the sun.
"I leave my answers in tears upon the grass."

THE Great is a born child; when he dies he gives his great childhood to the world.

Stray Birds

126

NOT hammerstrokes, but dance of the water sings the pebbles into perfection.

Stray Birds

127

BEES sip honey from flowers and hum their thanks when they leave.
The gaudy butterfly is sure that the flowers owe thanks to him.

TO be outspoken is easy when you do not wait to speak the complete truth.

Stray Birds

129

ASKS the Possible to the Impossible, "Where is your dwelling place?"
"In the dreams of the impotent," comes the answer.

IF you shut your door to all errors truth will be shut out.

Stray Birds

131

I HEAR some rustle of things behind my sadness of heart,—I cannot see them.

LEISURE in its activity is work.
The stillness of the sea stirs in waves.

THE leaf becomes flower when it loves.
The flower becomes fruit when it worships.

THE roots below the earth claim no rewards for making the branches fruitful.

Stray Birds

135

THIS rainy evening the wind is restless.

I look at the swaying branches and ponder over the greatness of all things.

STORM of midnight, like a giant child awakened in the untimely dark, has begun to play and shout.

Stray Birds

137

THOU raisest thy waves vainly to follow thy lover. O sea, thou lonely bride of the storm.

"I AM ashamed of my emptiness," said the Word to the Work.

"I know how poor I am when I see you," said the Work to the Word.

TIME is the wealth of change, but the clock in its parody makes it mere change and no wealth.

TRUTH in her dress finds facts too tight.
In fiction she moves with ease.

Stray Birds

141

WHEN I travelled to here and to there, I was tired of thee, O Road, but now when thou leadest me to everywhere I am wedded to thee in love.

Stray Birds

142

LET me think that there is one among those stars that guides my life through the dark unknown.

Stray Birds

143

WOMAN, with the grace of your fingers you touched my things and order came out like music.

ONE sad voice has its nest among the ruins of the years.
It sings to me in the night,—“I loved you.”

THE flaming fire warns me off by its own glow.
Save me from the dying embers hidden under ashes.

I HAVE my stars in the sky,
But oh for my little lamp unlit in my house.

THE dust of the dead words clings to thee.
Wash thy soul with silence.

Stray Birds

148

GAPS are left in life through which comes the sad music of death.

THE world has opened its heart of light in the morning.
Come out, my heart, with thy love to meet it.

MY thoughts shimmer with these shimmering leaves and my heart sings with the touch of this sunlight; my life is glad to be floating with all things into the blue of space, into the dark of time.

Stray Birds

151

GOD'S great power is in the gentle breeze, not in the storm.

Stray Birds

152

THIS is a dream in which things are all loose and they oppress. I shall find them gathered in thee when I awake and shall be free.

"WHO is there to take up my duties?" asked the setting sun.
"I shall do what I can, my Master," said the earthen lamp.

BY plucking her petals you do not gather the beauty of the flower.

Stray Birds

155

SILENCE will carry your voice like the nest that holds the sleeping birds.

THE Great walks with the Small without fear.
The Middling keeps aloof.

THE night opens the flowers in secret and allows the day to get thanks.

POWER takes as ingratitude the writhings of its victims.

WHEN we rejoice in our fulness, then we can part with our fruits with joy.

Stray Birds

160

THE raindrops kissed the earth and whispered,— "We are thy homesick children, mother, come back to thee from the heaven."

THE cobweb pretends to catch dew-drops and catches flies.

Stray Birds

162

LOVE! when you come with the burning lamp of pain in your hand, I can see your face and know you as bliss.

"THE learned say that your lights will one day be no more." said the firefly to the stars.
The stars made no answer.

Stray Birds

164

IN the dusk of the evening the bird of some early dawn comes to the nest of my silence.

Stray Birds

165

THOUGHTS pass in my mind like flocks of ducks in the sky.
I hear the voice of their wings.

THE canal loves to think that rivers exist solely to supply it with water.

THE world has kissed my soul with its pain, asking for its return in songs.

Stray Birds

168

THAT which oppresses me, is it my soul trying to come out in the open, or the soul of the world knocking at my heart for its entrance?

THOUGHT feeds itself with its own words and grows.

Stray Birds

170

I HAVE dipped the vessel of my heart into this silent hour; it has filled with love.

EITHER you have work or you have not.

When you have to say, "Let us do something," then begins mischief.

THE sunflower blushed to own the nameless flower as her kin.
The sun rose and smiled on it, saying, "Are you well, my darling?"

"WHO drives me forward like fate?"
"The Myself striding on my back."

THE clouds fill the watercups of the river, hiding themselves in the distant hills.

I SPILL water from my water jar as I walk on my way,
Very little remains for my home.

Stray Birds

176

THE water in a vessel is sparkling; the water in the sea is dark.
The small truth has words that are clear; the great truth has great silence.

Stray Birds

177

YOUR smile was the flowers of your own fields, your talk was the rustle of your own mountain pines, but your heart was the woman that we all know.

Stray Birds

178

IT is the little things that I leave behind for my loved ones,—great things are for everyone.

WOMAN, thou hast encircled the world's heart with the depth of thy tears as the sea has the earth.

Stray Birds

180

THE sunshine greets me with a smile. The rain, his sad sister, talks to my heart.

MY flower of the day dropped its petals forgotten.
In the evening it ripens into a golden fruit of memory.

I AM like the road in the night listening to the footfalls of its memories in silence.

Stray Birds

183

THE evening sky to me is like a window, and a lighted lamp, and a waiting behind it.

HE who is too busy doing good finds no time to be good.

Stray Birds

185

I AM the autumn cloud, empty of rain, see my fulness in the field of ripened rice.

Stray Birds

186

THEY hated and killed and men praised them.
But God in shame hastens to hide its memory under the green grass.

TOES are the fingers that have forsaken their past.

Stray Birds

188

DARKNESS travels towards light, but blindness towards death.

THE pet dog suspects the universe for scheming to take its place.

SIT still my heart, do not raise your dust.
Let the world find its way to you.

THE bow whispers to the arrow before it speeds forth—"Your freedom is mine."

WOMAN, in your laughter you have the music of the fountain of life.

A MIND all logic is like a knife all blade.
It makes the hand bleed that uses it.

Stray Birds

194

GOD loves man's lamp lights better than his own great stars.

Stray Birds

195

THIS world is the world of wild storms kept tame with the music of beauty.

"MY heart is like the golden casket of thy kiss," said the sunset cloud to the sun.

Stray Birds

197

BY touching you may kill, by keeping away you may possess.

THE cricket's chirp and the patter of rain come to me through the dark, like the rustle of dreams from my past youth.

"I HAVE lost my dewdrop," cries the flower to the morning sky that has lost all its stars.

THE burning log bursts in flame and cries,— "This is my flower, my death."

THE wasp thinks that the honey-hive of the neighbouring bees is too small.
His neighbours ask him to build one still smaller.

"I CANNOT keep your waves," says the bank to the river.
"Let me keep your footprints in my heart."

Stray Birds

203

THE day, with the noise of this little earth, drowns the silence of all worlds.

Stray Birds

204

THE song feels the infinite in the air, the picture in the earth, the poem in the air and the earth;
For its words have meaning that walks and music that soars.

WHEN the sun goes down to the West, the East of his morning stands before him in silence.

LET me not put myself wrongly to my world and set it against me.

PRAISE shames me, for I secretly beg for it.

LET my doing nothing when I have nothing to do become untroubled in its depth of peace like the evening in the seashore when the water is silent.

MAIDEN, your simplicity, like the blueness of the lake, reveals your depth of truth.

Stray Birds

210

THE best does not come alone. It comes with the company of the all.

GOD's right hand is gentle, but terrible is his left hand.

Stray Birds

212

MY evening came among the alien trees and spoke in a language which my morning stars did not know.

NIGHT'S darkness is a bag that bursts with the gold of the dawn.

OUR desire lends the colours of the rainbow to the mere mists and vapours of life.

Stray Birds

215

GOD waits to win back his own flowers as gifts from man's hands.

MY sad thoughts tease me asking me their own names.

THE service of the fruit is precious, the service of the flower is sweet, but let my service be the service of the leaves in its shade of humble devotion.

MY heart has spread its sails to the idle winds for the shadowy island of Anywhere.

MEN are cruel, but Man is kind.

Stray Birds

220

MAKE me thy cup and let my fulness be for thee and for thine.

Stray Birds

221

THE storm is like the cry of some god in pain whose love the earth refuses.

THE world does not leak because death is not a crack.

LIFE has become richer by the love that has been lost.

Stray Birds

224

MY friend, your great heart shone with the sunrise of the East like the snowy summit of a lonely hill in the dawn.

THE fountain of death makes the still water of life play.

THOSE who have everything but thee, my God, laugh at those who have nothing but thyself.

THE movement of life has its rest in its own music.

KICKS only raise dust and not crops from the earth.

OUR names are the light that glows on the sea waves at night and then dies without leaving its signature.

LET him only see the thorns who has eyes to see the rose.

Stray Birds

231

SET bird's wings with gold and it will never again soar in the sky.

Stray Birds

232

THE same lotus of our clime blooms here in the alien water with the same sweetness, under another name.

IN heart's perspective the distance looms large.

Stray Birds

234

THE moon has her light all over the sky, her dark spots to herself.

Stray Birds

235

DO not say, "It is morning," and dismiss it with a name of yesterday. See it for the first time as a new-born child that has no name.

Stray Birds

236

SMOKE boasts to the sky, and Ashes to the earth, that they are brothers to the fire.

THE raindrop whispered to the jasmine, "Keep me in your heart for ever."
The jasmine sighed, "Alas," and dropped to the ground.

TIMID thoughts, do not be afraid of me.
I am a poet.

THE dim silence of my mind seems filled with crickets' chirp—the grey twilight of sound.

Stray Birds

240

ROCKETS, your insult to the stars follows yourself back to the earth.

Stray Birds

241

THOU hast led me through my crowded travels of the day to my evening's loneliness.
I wait for its meaning through the stillness of the night.

Stray Birds

242

THIS life is the crossing of a sea, where we meet in the same narrow ship.
In death we reach the shore and go to our different worlds.

THE stream of truth flows through its channels of mistakes.

Stray Birds

244

MY heart is homesick to-day for the one sweet hour across the sea of time.

Stray Birds

245

THE bird-song is the echo of the morning light back from the earth.

"ARE you too proud to kiss me?" the morning light asks the buttercup.

"HOW may I sing to thee and worship, O Sun?" asked the little flower.
"By the simple silence of thy purity," answered the sun.

MAN is worse than an animal when he is an animal.

Stray Birds

249

DARK clouds become heaven's flowers when kissed by light.

LET not the sword-blade mock its handle for being blunt.

THE night's silence, like a deep lamp, is burning with the light of its milky way.

Stray Birds

252

AROUND the sunny island of Life swells day and night death's limitless song of the sea.

Stray Birds

253

IS not this mountain like a flower, with its petals of hills, drinking the sunlight?

THE real with its meaning read wrong and emphasis misplaced is the unreal.

Stray Birds

255

FIND your beauty, my heart, from the world's movement, like the boat that has the grace of the wind and the water.

Stray Birds

256

THE eyes are not proud of their sight but of their eyeglasses.

Stray Birds

257

I LIVE in this little world of mine and am afraid to make it the least less. Lift me into thy world and let me have the freedom gladly to lose my all.

THE false can never grow into truth by growing in power.

Stray Birds

259

MY heart, with its lapping waves of song, longs to caress this green world of the sunny day.

Stray Birds

260

WAYSIDE grass, love the star, then your dreams will come out in flowers.

Stray Birds

261

LET your music, like a sword, pierce the noise of the market to its heart.

THE trembling leaves of this tree touch my heart like the fingers of an infant child.

THIS sadness of my soul is her bride's veil.
It waits to be lifted in the night.

THE little flower lies in the dust.
It sought the path of the butterfly.

Stray Birds

265

I AM in the world of the roads. The night comes. Open thy gate, thou world of the home.

Stray Birds

266

I HAVE sung the songs of thy day. In the evening let me carry thy lamp through the stormy path.

I DO not ask thee into the house.
Come into my infinite loneliness, my Lover.

DEATH belongs to life as birth does. The walk is in the raising of the foot as in the laying of it down.

Stray Birds

269

I HAVE learnt the simple meaning of thy whispers in flowers and sunshine—teach me to know thy words in pain and death.

THE night's flower was late when the morning kissed her, she shivered and sighed and dropped to the ground.

Stray Birds

271

THROUGH the sadness of all things I hear the crooning of the Eternal Mother.

Stray Birds

272

I CAME to your shore as a stranger, I lived in your house as a guest, I leave your door as a friend, my earth.

Stray Birds

273

LET my thoughts come to you, when I am gone, like the afterglow of sunset at the margin of starry silence.

Stray Birds

274

LIGHT in my heart the evening star of rest and then let the night whisper to me of love.

Stray Birds

275

I AM a child in the dark.

I stretch my hands through the coverlet of night for thee, Mother.

Stray Birds

276

THE day of work is done. Hide my face in your arms, Mother.
Let me dream.

THE lamp of meeting burns long; it goes out in a moment at the parting.

Stray Birds

278

ONE word keep for me in thy silence, O World, when I am dead, "I have loved."

WE live in this world when we love it.

Stray Birds

280

LET the dead have the immortality of fame, but the living the immortality of love.

Stray Birds

281

I HAVE seen thee as the half-awakened child sees his mother in the dusk of the dawn and then smiles and sleeps again.

Stray Birds

282

I SHALL die again and again to know that life is inexhaustible.

Stray Birds

283

WHILE I was passing with the crowd in the road I saw thy smile from the balcony and I sang and forgot all noise.

LOVE is life in its fulness like the cup with its wine.

Stray Birds

285

THEY light their own lamps and sing their own words in their temples.
But the birds sing thy name in thine own morning light,—for thy name is joy.

Stray Birds

286

LEAD me in the centre of thy silence to fill my heart with songs.

Stray Birds

287

LET them live who choose in their own hissing world of fireworks.
My heart longs for thy stars, my God.

Stray Birds

288

LOVE'S pain sang round my life like the unplumbed sea, and love's joy sang like birds in its flowering groves.

PUT out the lamp when thou wishest.
I shall know thy darkness and shall love it.

Stray Birds

290

WHEN I stand before thee at the day's end thou shalt see my scars and know that I had my wounds and also my healing.

Stray Birds

291

SOME day I shall sing to thee in the sunrise of some other world, "I have seen thee before in the light of the earth, in the love of man."

Stray Birds

292

CLOUDS come floating into my life from other days no longer to shed rain or usher storm but to give colour to my sunset sky.

Stray Birds

293

TRUTH raises against itself the storm that scatters its seeds broadcast.

THE storm of the last night has crowned this morning with golden peace.

TRUTH seems to come with its final word; and the final word gives birth to its next.

BLESSED is he whose fame does not outshine his truth.

Stray Birds

297

SWEETNESS of thy name fills my heart when I forget mine—like thy morning sun when the mist is melted.

THE silent night has the beauty of the mother and the clamorous day of the child.

THE world loved man when he smiled. The world became afraid of him when he laughed.

Stray Birds

300

GOD waits for man to regain his childhood in wisdom.

Stray Birds

301

LET me feel this world as thy love taking form, then my love will help it.

Stray Birds

302

THY sunshine smiles upon the winter days of my heart, never doubting of its spring flowers.

GOD kisses the finite in his love and man the infinite.

THOU crossest desert lands of barren years to reach the moment of fulfilment.

GOD's silence ripens man's thoughts into speech.

Stray Birds

306

THOU wilt find, Eternal Traveller, marks of thy footsteps across my songs.

LET me not shame thee, Father, who displayest thy glory in thy children.

CHEERLESS is the day, the light under frowning clouds is like a punished child with traces of tears on its pale cheeks, and the cry of the wind is like the cry of a wounded world. But I know I am travelling to meet my Friend.

Stray Birds

309

TO-NIGHT there is a stir among the palm leaves, a swell in the sea, Full Moon, like the heart throb of the world. From what unknown sky hast thou carried in thy silence the aching secret of love?

I DREAM of a star, an island of light, where I shall be born and in the depth of its quickening leisure my life will ripen its works like the ricefield in the autumn sun.

THE smell of the wet earth in the rain rises like a great chant of praise from the voiceless multitude of the insignificant.

THAT love can ever lose is a fact that we cannot accept as truth.

WE shall know some day that death can never rob us of that which our soul has gained, for her gains are one with herself.

Stray Birds

314

GOD comes to me in the dusk of my evening with the flowers from my past kept fresh in his basket.

Stray Birds

315

WHEN all the strings of my life will be tuned, my Master, then at every touch of thine will come out the music of love.

LET me live truly, my Lord, so that death to me become true.

MAN'S history is waiting in patience for the triumph of the insulted man.

Stray Birds

318

I FEEL thy gaze upon my heart this moment like the sunny silence of the morning upon the lonely field whose harvest is over.

Stray Birds

319

I LONG for the Island of Songs across this heaving Sea of Shouts.

Stray Birds

320

THE prelude of the night is commenced in the music of the sunset, in its solemn hymn to the ineffable dark.

Stray Birds

321

I HAVE scaled the peak and found no shelter in fame's bleak and barren height. Lead me, my Guide, before the light fades, into the valley of quiet where life's harvest mellows into golden wisdom.

THINGS look phantastic in this dimness of the dusk—the spires whose bases are lost in the dark and tree tops like blots of ink. I shall wait for the morning and wake up to see thy city in the light.

I HAVE suffered and despaired and known death and I am glad that I am in this great world.

Stray Birds

324

THERE are tracts in my life that are bare and silent. They are the open spaces where my busy days had their light and air.

Stray Birds

325

RELEASE me from my unfulfilled past clinging to me from behind making death difficult.

LET this be my last word, that I trust in thy love.