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J. Paul Hunter, ed. The Norton Introduction to Poetry, 2nd ed. New York, W.W. Norton & Co., 1981.

USES

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RICHARD WILBUR

She

What was her beauty in our first estate
 When Adam's will was whole,³ and the least thing
 Appeared the gift and creature of his king,
 How should we guess? Resemblance had to wait

For separation, and in such a place 5
 She so partook of water, light, and trees
 As not to look like any one of these.
 He woke and gazed into her naked face.

But then she changed, and coming down amid 10
 The flocks of Abel and the fields of Cain,
 Clothed in their wish, her Eden graces hid,
 A shape of plenty with a mop of grain,

She broke upon the world, in time took on 15
 The look of every labor and its fruits.
 Columnar in a robe of pleated lawn
 She cupped her patient hand for attributes,

Was radiant captive of the farthest tower 20
 And shed her honor on the fields of war,
 Walked in her garden at the evening hour,
 Her shadow like a dark ogival⁴ door,

Breasted the seas for all the westward ships
 And, come to virgin country, changed again—
 A moonlike being truest in eclipse,
 And subject goddess of the dreams of men.

Tree, temple, valley, prow, gazelle, machine, 25
 More named and nameless than the morning star,
 Lovely in every shape, in all unseen,
 We dare not wish to find you as you are,

Whose apparition, biding time until 30
 Desire decay and bring the latter age,
 Shall flourish in the ruins of our will
 And deck⁵ the broken stones like saxifrage.⁶

1961

3. Before the Fall.
 4. In the form of a pointed (Gothic) arch.

5. Adorn.
 6. A tufted plant with bright flowers, often rooted in the clefts of rocks.

NANCY SULLIVAN

The Death

What was it
 How could
 It had never
 No one had
 Whatever it
 Something
 Curled in a
 the first dea
 drained out
 while the o
 the dead w
 (because it
 they tried t
 They kicked
 Where had
 Dead we n
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What was
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 Even as it

ROBERT FROST

Never Again Wou

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