

NATIVITY PLAY 1968

If long ago I learned to give the lie
To myths and magics, fantasies and fears,
And flights of fancy through the singing sky
Whence blazing stars turned blind men into seers
Who saw deaf men hear dumb men's tongues apprise
How maid bore man no tomb nor time could hold -
If long ago I grew too worldly wise
To scrape the gilt to seek a hidden gold
Why, then, when gentle voices rise and fall
Like genuflecting kings from sweep to sweep
Who bow their proud and weary heads with all
The fuddled faith of shepherds half-asleep,
Should well, unwept, in eyes that never saw
Stable or star, this weight of ancient awe?

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