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# THE CHOOSERS

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O ye! Fragile, tremulous  
Haunters of the deep glades,  
Whose fingers part the leaves  
Of beech and aspen ere ye slip thro',  
Shall I see ye again?

Men have said unto me:  
These are but flying lights and shadows,  
Light on the beech-boles, clouds shadowing the corn-  
fields,  
The wind in the flame of birches in autumn,  
Wind shadowing the clear pools.  
But ye cried, laughing, down the wind:  
*Men are but shadows, but a vain breath!*

So here cometh unto me  
That cry from the rejoicing air:  
Men are but shadows! And prone about me  
I see them, hushed and sleeping in the hut,  
Made solemn and holy by the night,  
In the dead light o' the moon:  
Shadowy, swathed in their blankets,  
As sleep, in hewn sepulchral caves,  
Egypt's and Asia's kings.  
While between them are the footsteps  
Of glittering presences, who say: Lo, one  
To be a sword upon my thigh!