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Salvador Novo

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Brief Romance in Time of Absence

By SALVADOR NOVO

(Translated by Edna Worthley Underwood)

My only love and so wholly mine
 Making desirable my days,
How well we both know what absence is
 Since the flesh hinders us so always!

My hands to be sure have forgotten you
 But my eyes can see you as I tell,
Whenever the world grows bitter for me
 I shut them both then I see you well.

I never want to meet you again
 Who are with me always, I do not care
How I shatter to pieces life which is yours
 Which for me weaves this dream so fair.

Just as one day you said to me
 That it is your living image I own
Because daily I wash my eyes
 With the tears wherein your memory shone.

One went away but it was not you,
 My love whom the silences can claim,
If my two arms even and my mouth
 Went away with the words they name.

This is not I, the other it is
 Silent as usual but lasting for aye
Just like this love so wholly mine
 Which will go on with me till I die.