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Plato, Despair!

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Surf of illusion
 Spins from the deep,
 And skilled delusion
 Sustains his sleep.

When silence hears
 In its delight
 The tide of tears
 In the salt night,

And stirs, and tenses,
 Who knows what themes,
 What lunar senses,
 Compel his dreams?

PLATO, DESPAIR!

Plato, despair!
 We prove by norms
 How numbers bear
 Empiric forms;

How random wrong
 Will average right,
 If time be long
 and error slight.

But in our hearts
 Hyperbole
 Curves and departs
 To infinity.

Error is boundless.
 Nor hope nor doubt,
 Though both be groundless,
 Will average out.

J. V. CUNNINGHAM