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## Order and Fruitfulness

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## NMQ POETRY SELECTIONS

## ORDER AND FRUITFULNESS

The light of the morning on her good complexion,  
on her blue eyes that stuck out and on her little chin—  
She was brought up simply.

“. . . a fundamental rule, to be courageous, firm  
and honest as you have been,” Victoria’s uncle wrote to  
her, when she was eighteen just before she became Queen.

After the Coronation she ran upstairs at home and  
changed her clothes and washed her dog, Dash.

Victoria — Goethe — The different countrysides where  
each lived had parks and formal gardens and animals  
with graceful claws and horns and diaphanous-finned,  
diaphanous-tailed fishes.

When Goethe was eighty he wrote, “No more on  
silken page I write symmetrical verse, no more framing  
them in golden tendrils. . .” Courtlife was good for him,  
the regularity. When he was about eighty he also wrote,  
“We must not try to get behind phenomena: they them-  
selves are the lesson.”

In the morning foggy light his old hand hardly  
touches the paper, from emotion and sensual lightness,  
as he writes.

LOUIS SECOND

## THE MEANINGS OF CONSENT

Even in winter air his voice is choral of comrade crew  
And reaps the full tone from the seed of sound  
The nighthawk with its wing-dip dropped  
Into the furrowed, loam-soft sky.

Surely himself, he passes at evening  
Under the red-reined control of the returning road  
And gives his greeting that is flushed  
Cheerful with the subject of the heart.