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The Setting Is withal Appropriate

The setting is withal appropriate
the time with it wholly commensurate
(twelve archaic chimes from the ornate clock
on the east wall, facing the locked
door, twirl into my trichromatic ears).

My beloved spouse timelessly slumbers near
among the roses in the dainty room,
and Anna, gorgeous Anna, dances
perennially with the ballet dancers
at the edge of her summer afternoon.

Once again I walk, four hours before noon,
the long walk, hatless and speechless, harpooned
by the slanting sun fixed on my eyes.
Desirous of relief from the sea of skies,
I hasten to reach the learned hall.

From the grandiose height my mind walls
in the bloom of the multicolored flowers;
perfumed, the apperception slowly ascends
momentarily the lonely and immense
marble stairway in the ivied tower.

And what of this at some distant time
when the clock on the east wall, facing
the door, will ring out the usual chime?
Both time and guests will quietly walk in
to respect and comfort me in my age
which perennially recalls the image
of scarlet roses in the dainty room
at the edge of one summer afternoon.

—D. J. Lepore