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## Burton of Arabia

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ETHEL BARNETT DE VITO

*BURTON OF ARABIA*

Even to see him was to guess  
His laybrinthian Easternness:  
Kaftanned, burnoosed, in Arab guise  
With heavy-lidded kohl-rimmed eyes—  
As restive a wilding as might stir  
From solid roots in Hertfordshire.

Who is to know it if the springs  
Of his nomadic venturings  
Might be accountable in the vast  
Uncharted reaches of the past,  
If something or someone left a trace  
That centuries could not erase?

Whether by accident, design  
Or inescapable Karmic line,  
He found, impeccable Englishman,  
In these un-English desert sands,  
In strangers' eyes and tongues unknown  
That here at last, he had come home.