

**IMAGES OF WAR,
A BOOK OF POEMS**

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Images of war, a book of poems by Richard Aldington

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RICHARD ALDINGTON

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A BOOK OF POEMS BY

RICHARD ALDINGTON

LOAN STACK



PROEM

OUT of this turmoil and passion,
This implacable contest,
This vast sea of effort,
I would gather something of repose,
Some intuition of the inalterable gods,
Some Attic gesture.

Each day I grow more restless,
See the austere shape elude me,
Gaze impotently upon a thousand miseries
And still am dumb.

May, 1917

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VICARIOUS ATONEMENT

THIS is an old and very cruel god . . .
We will endure;
We will try not to wince
When he crushes and rends us.

If indeed it is for your sakes,
If we perish or moan in torture,
Or stagger under sordid burdens
That you may live—
Then we can endure.

If our wasted blood
Makes bright the page
Of poets yet to be;
If this our tortured life
Save from destruction's nails
Gold words of a Greek long dead;
Then we can endure,
Then hope,
Then watch the sun rise
Without utter bitterness.

But, O thou old and very cruel god,
Take, if thou canst, this bitter cup from us.