

**THE EARTH BREATH  
AND OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649761159

The earth breath and other poems by George William Russell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL**

**THE EARTH BREATH  
AND OTHER POEMS**



## Contents

PREFACE . . . . .	9
THE EARTH BREATH . . . . .	11
ALTER EGO . . . . .	13
A VISION OF BEAUTY . . . . .	14
THE VOICE OF THE SEA . . . . .	17
LOVE . . . . .	18
THE MOUNTAINEER . . . . .	20
DAWN SONG . . . . .	21
IMMORTALITY . . . . .	23
A WOMAN'S VOICE . . . . .	24
HEROIC LOVE . . . . .	25
BENEDICTION . . . . .	26
THE MEMORY OF EARTH . . . . .	27
DREAM LOVE . . . . .	28
MORNING . . . . .	29
THE DREAM OF THE CHILDREN . . . . .	30
SONG . . . . .	33
THE FOUNTAIN OF SHADOWY BEAUTY . . . . .	34
WEARINESS . . . . .	44
ALIEN . . . . .	46
BLINDNESS . . . . .	47
JANUS . . . . .	48
ILLUSION . . . . .	49
AWAKENING . . . . .	50
THE DARK AGE . . . . .	51
THE MAN TO THE ANGEL . . . . .	52

## Contents

THE GARDEN OF GOD . . . . .	53
THE HOUR OF TWILIGHT . . . . .	54
A NEW WORLD . . . . .	55
BROTHERHOOD . . . . .	57
THE SEER . . . . .	58
A NEW THEME . . . . .	59
GLORY AND SHADOW . . . . .	60
THE FREE . . . . .	63
THE FACE OF FACES . . . . .	64
THE ROBIN OF THE KING . . . . .	66
WINTER . . . . .	69
ANSWER . . . . .	70
DUALITY . . . . .	71
DIVINE VISITATION . . . . .	72
THE CHRIST SWORD . . . . .	73
THE MESSAGE OF JOHN . . . . .	74
THE HOUR OF THE KING . . . . .	80
A LEADER . . . . .	81
A LAST COUNSEL . . . . .	82
ENDURANCE . . . . .	83
THE MID-WORLD . . . . .	85
THE TIDE OF SORROW . . . . .	86
TRAGEDY . . . . .	87
IN THE WOMB . . . . .	88
STAR TEACHERS . . . . .	89
ON A HILLSIDE . . . . .	90

## Contents

A RETURN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	92
CONTENT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	93
EPILOGUE	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	94

*I THOUGHT, beloved, to have brought to you  
A gift of quietness and ease and peace,  
Cooling your brow as with the mystic dew  
Dropping from twilight trees.*

*Homeward I go not yet; the darkness grows;  
Not mine the voice to still with peace divine:  
From the first fount the stream of quiet flows  
Through other hearts than mine.*

*Yet of my night I give to you the stars,  
And of my sorrow here the sweetest gains,  
And out of hell, beyond its iron bars,  
My scorn of all its pains.*



## The Earth Breath

FROM the cool and dark-lipped furrows  
breathes a dim delight  
Through the woodland's purple plumage  
to the diamond night.  
Aureoles of joy encircle  
every blade of grass  
Where the dew-fed creatures silent  
and enraptured pass.  
And the restless ploughman pauses,  
turns and, wondering,  
Deep beneath his rustic habit  
finds himself a king ;  
For a fiery moment looking  
with the eyes of God  
Over fields a slave at morning  
bowed him to the sod.  
Blind and dense with revelation  
every moment flies,  
And unto the mighty mother,  
gay, eternal, rise  
All the hopes we hold, the gladness,  
dreams of things to be,  
One of all thy generations,  
mother, hails to thee.  
Hail, and hail, and hail for ever,  
though I turn again

## The Earth Breath

From thy joy unto the human  
vesticure of pain.  
I, thy child who went forth radiant  
in the golden prime,  
Find thee still the mother-hearted  
through my night in time ;  
Find in thee the old enchantment  
there behind the veil  
Where the gods, my brothers, linger.  
hail, forever, hail !

## Alter Ego

ALL the morn a spirit gay  
Breathes within my heart a rhyme,  
'Tis but hide and seek we play  
In and out the courts of Time.

Fairy lover, when my feet  
Through the tangled woodland go,  
'Tis thy sunny fingers fleet  
Fleck the fire dew's to and fro.

In the moonlight grows a smile  
Mid its rays of dusty pearl—  
'Tis but hide and seek the while,  
As some frolic boy and girl.

When I fade into the deep  
Some mysterious radiance showers  
From the jewel-heart of sleep  
Through the veil of darkened hours.

Where the ring of twilight gleams  
Round the sanctuary wrought,  
Whispers haunt me—in my dreams  
We are one yet know it not.

Some for beauty follow long  
Flying traces; some there be  
Seek thee only for a song;  
I to lose myself in thee.