

**EAST AND WEST: THE
DISCOVERY OF AMERICA
AND OTHER POEMS**

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East and West: The Discovery of America and Other Poems by Ernest Francisco Fenollosa

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1893

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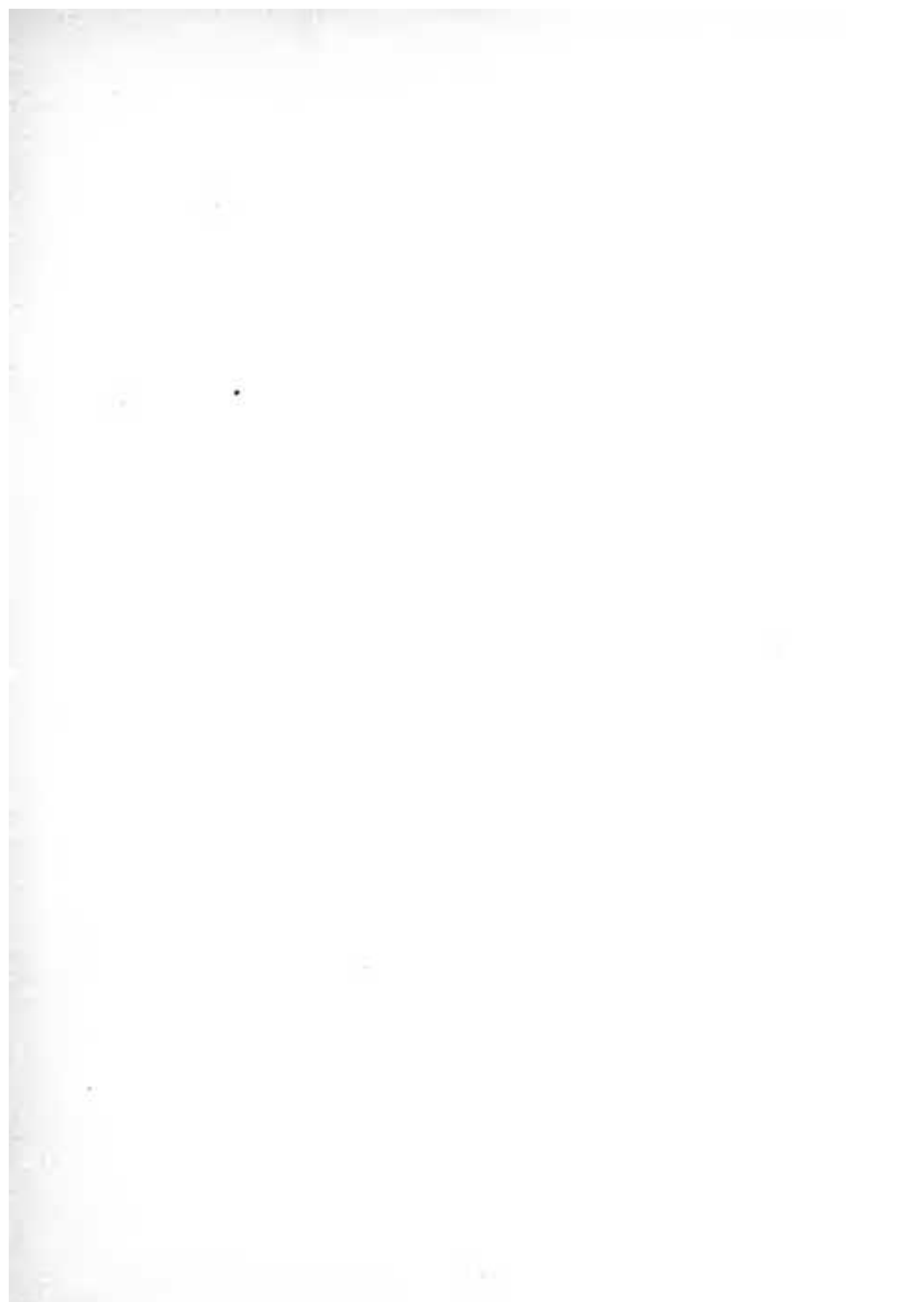
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1893

MAIN

*Each solemn sweet truth
Is indited to thee,
Dear playmate of youth,
Who a-perch on my knee
Heard me proudly rehearse —
With a kiss for a dash —
From my first callow verse; —
Heard the far billows splash
To our nest in the East,
Where we learned from the doves
How to chant, like a priest,
At the shrine of our loves.*

*Each dainty light thought
I have written for thee,
O little one brought
Like a pearl from the sea;
Who lay in a basket
Rose-blown to the South,
While rhymes in a casket
Were caught from thy mouth.
Should after-years query,
My laurel of fame
Shall rest with thee, dearie,
Who bearest my name.*



PREFACE.

In "East and West" I have endeavored to condense my experiences of two hemispheres, and my study of their history. The synthesis of two continental civilizations, matured apart through fifteen hundred years, will mark this close of our century as an unique dramatic epoch in human affairs. At the end of a great cycle the two halves of the world come together for the final creation of man.

This union was foreshadowed two thousand years ago in the swift career of Alexander the Great, when, at a blow, he brought the arts of Greece face to face with the mystical thought of India. In the Hellenic kingdoms the ancient types of East and West were mingled to the point of a vital exchange of faculty. But, with the decrepitude of the Roman Empire, Europe and Asia, bearing in their bosoms this pledge of plighted troth, withdrew into that long seclusion the barriers of which should not be broken until the might of invention could go hand in hand with sympathy.

Eastern culture, slowly elaborated, has held to ideals whose refinement seems markedly feminine. For it social

institutions are the positive harmonies of a life of brotherhood. Western culture, on the contrary, has held to ideals whose strength seems markedly masculine. For it law is the compromise of Liberty with her own excesses, while conquest, science, and industry are but parallel channels for the overflow of hungry personality.

But this one-sidedness has been partly compensated by the religious life of each. The violence of the West has been softened by the feminine faith of love, renunciation, obedience, salvation from without. It is the very impersonality of her great ecclesiastical institute which offers to man a refuge from self. On the other hand, the peaceful impotence of the East has been spurred by her martial faith of spiritual knighthood, self-reliance, salvation from within. The intense individuality of her esoteric discipline upholds the fertile tranquillity of her surface. This stupendous double antithesis seems to me the most significant fact in all history. The future union of the types may thus be symbolized as a twofold marriage.

Meanwhile the first attempts to assimilate alien ideals have led to the irony of a quadruple confusion, analogous to the disruption of Alexander's conquest. But our genuine interest in music predicts our native power to compass a profounder integration. Within the coming century the blended strength of Scientific Analysis and Spiritual Wisdom should wed for eternity the blended grace of *Æsthetic Synthesis* and *Spiritual Love*.

In "The Discovery of America" I was governed by two aims: one, to expand the resources of poetic art by the