

THE CUTTING OF AN AGATE

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The cutting of an agate by William Butler Yeats

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WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

**THE CUTTING
OF AN AGATE**

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OF AN AGATE

BY

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

AUTHOR OF "IDEAS OF GOOD AND
EVIL," ETC.

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but for the most part an exposition of principles, whether suggested by my own work or by the death of friend or fellow-worker, that, intended for no great public, has been printed and published from a Hand Press which my sisters manage at Dundrum with the help of the village girls. I have been busy with a single art, that of the theatre, of a small, unpopular theatre; and this art may well seem to practical men, busy with some programme of industrial or political regeneration, of no more account than the shaping of an agate; and yet in the shaping of an agate, whether in the cutting or the making of the design, one discovers, if one have a speculative mind, thoughts that seem important and principles that may be applied to life itself, and certainly if one does not believe so, one is but a poor cutter of so hard a stone.

W. B. YEATS.

August, 1912.

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