

MIHAI EMINESCU, *HESPERUS*

(a fragment translated in English by Luiza Şoşu)

She smiles receding to her dreams,
He follows from his pole,
In mirror quivering his beams,
To dwell upon her soul.

And in her sleep she heaves a moan:
"Oh, my nox's sweetest lord,
Ere the day star breaks the dawn
Come where you have never trod!

Slide Hesperus I do invoke,
Trail down on your tender ray!
My mind and abode cloak
Sooth with your light my lot of clay".

He harkens, quivering on high,
Then kindles into motion.
A streak of lightning from the sky,
He sinks into the ocean.

And where he has plunged in rave
The waters heave in surges.
And from the whirl of light and wave
A handsome lad emerges.

And lightly as on a threshold,
Through her window he proceeds.
A coral scepter he keeps hold,
Wreathed up with chirring reeds.

A young celestial voivode,
Wrapped up in livid shroud,
He ousts the gloom of her abode
With golden hair – nimbus cloud.

Yet, waxy pallor of his cheek
Like Paros marble is deep.
And the glow of his eyes bespeak
The spirit life of the steep.

"Thro' galaxies I wrought my way
For heaven is my father,
Now wallow law have to obey
For ocean is my mother.

Into your chamber I tread in
To behold you face to face,
Bring solace of my race serene
Into the birth from water's grace.

I do beseech you come a-nigh,
Quit now with me this world of pride.
I am your Hesperus from high
And you shall to be my bride.

In the realm of coral and reed
I'll cosset your ceaseless day,
Where every fish and Nereid
Shall gladly to you obey!"

"How beautiful you do appear,
'Tis like an angel of my dream!
Yet, I'll never quit my sphere –
'Tis burden to bond your beam.

Your astral accents so arcane,
So freezing is your flare.
For you have no life in your vein,
But I have flesh to bear".