

## Texts and Translations

### Sweet Radiant Mystery – Catherine Dalton

O Sweet Radiant Mystery,  
set us free from that which binds,  
beckoning the soul to fly.  
O Sweet Radiant Mystery,  
open our eyes to see beyond  
that which hides the soul from light.  
O Sweet Radiant Mystery,  
help us hear the endless song  
of all that is and was and ever shall be.

### Fairy Song – Louisa May Alcott

The moonlight fades from flower and rose  
And the stars dim one by one;  
The tale is told, the song is sung,  
And the Fairy feast is done.  
The night-wind rocks the sleeping flowers,  
And sings to them, soft and low.  
The early birds ere long will wake:  
'T is time for the Elves to go.

O'er the sleeping earth we silently pass,  
Unseen by mortal eye,  
And send sweet dreams, as we lightly float  
Through the quiet moonlit sky;—  
For the stars' soft eyes alone may see,  
And the flowers alone may know,  
The feasts we hold, the tales we tell;  
So't is time for the Elves to go.

From bird, and blossom, and bee,  
We learn the lessons they teach;  
And seek, by kindly deeds, to win  
A loving friend in each.  
And though unseen on earth we dwell,  
Sweet voices whisper low,  
And gentle hearts most joyously greet  
The Elves where'er they go.

When next we meet in the Fairy dell,  
May the silver moon's soft light  
Shine then on faces gay as now,  
And Elfin hearts as light.  
Now spread each wing, for the eastern sky  
With sunlight soon shall glow.  
The morning star shall light us home:  
Farewell! for the Elves must go.

### Jabberwocky – Lewis Carroll

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.  
"Beware the Jabberwock, my son  
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!  
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun  
The frumious Bandersnatch!"  
He took his vorpal sword in hand;  
Long time the manxome foe he sought—  
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,  
And stood awhile in thought. (cont)

And, as in uffish thought he stood,  
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,  
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,  
And burbled as it came!  
One, two! One, two! And through and through  
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!  
He left it dead, and with its head  
He went galumphing back.  
"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?  
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!  
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"  
He chortled in his joy.  
'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

### Wynken, Blynken, and Nod – Eugene Field

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night  
Sailed off in a wooden shoe,—  
Sailed on a river of crystal light  
Into a sea of dew.  
"Where are you going, and what do you wish?"  
The old moon asked the three.  
"We have come to fish for the herring-fish  
That live in this beautiful sea;  
Nets of silver and gold have we,"  
Said Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.  
The old moon laughed and sang a song,  
As they rocked in the wooden shoe;  
And the wind that sped them all night long  
Ruffled the waves of dew;  
The little stars were the herring-fish  
That lived in the beautiful sea.  
"Now cast your nets wherever you wish,—  
Never afraid are we!"  
So cried the stars to the fishermen three,  
Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.  
All night long their nets they threw  
To the stars in the twinkling foam,—  
Then down from the skies came the wooden shoe,  
Bringing the fishermen home:  
'Twas all so pretty a sail, it seemed  
As if it could not be;  
And some folk thought 'twas a dream they'd dreamed  
Of sailing that beautiful sea;  
But I shall name you the fishermen three:  
Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.  
Wynken and Blynken are two little eyes,  
And Nod is a little head,  
And the wooden shoe that sailed the skies  
Is a wee one's trundle-bed;  
So shut your eyes while Mother sings  
Of wonderful sights that be,  
And you shall see the beautiful things  
As you rock in the misty sea  
Where the old shoe rocked the fishermen three:—  
Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.

### Ad Astra – Jacob Narverud

Ad astra per aspera  
to the stars ...  
Sursum  
When you're tired and troubled and you have lost your way,  
Don't let hard times lead you astray.  
Though you may be weary, just know you're not alone,  
for the stars will guide you home.  
Movere, deinceps, sine cura, post omnes.  
Move forward, look upward, leave all cares behind.  
Ad Astra per aspera  
to the stars ... to the stars!

### The Language of the Stars - Martha Lavinia Hoffman

Ye brilliant orbs that deck the sky,  
Shrouded in deepest mystery,  
To thee my song I sing!  
I long to know of what thou art,  
Of this great universe a part,  
I feel thy glory in my heart  
While to the earth I cling!  
I long to traverse thy bright spheres,  
To stand above the flight of years  
Remembering earth's dark sod;  
Who formed thy glittering, gilded gems,  
Who framed thy starry diadems,  
Who all the golden glory bends  
Of the resplendent sun!  
Mysterious questions, answered not,  
With deepest meaning ever fraught,  
Flooding this life below,  
When rolling years no more shall be,  
When man shall find his destiny,  
When time unveils eternity;  
Perhaps, we then shall know.

### Galaxias – Santiago Veros

Y la tiniebla del ocaso desvanece  
cuando la luz de los ancestros  
forma un manto que protege y guía.

Un ser iluminando las galaxias  
La certeza en el camino del naufragio  
El fulgor de la existencia, el tiempo y la distancia.

La aurora ancestral de luz dorada  
en el despertar del alba.  
los ojos radiantes de certezas  
condensados en rayos luminosos.

El eterno fulgor del alma:  
un instante de infinitas distancias  
y el amanecer de millones de albas.

### A Thank You Note to the Universe – Noor Unnahar

last night i whispered  
a thank-you note to the universe  
for it made oceans and stars  
equally beautiful and accessible  
for all of us; i breathe the same air  
as the people i love and the people i lost  
the particles of their existence are still  
surrounding me and this is how loneliness  
doesn't know how to find me alone

### How to Sing Like a Planet – Elizabeth Alexander

Let everything unfold in its own time.  
Accept what's beyond your control.  
Revel in simple harmonic motion.

Turn.  
Rotate.

Get charged up.  
Be weak. Be strong.  
Don't fight friction.  
Vibrate sympathetically.  
Don't be afraid to get into a groove.

Let gravity have its way with you.  
Revolve around something luminous.

Wheel, whirl, slide, collide,  
Circle, cycle, amble, gambol -  
Resonate, radiate, innovate, renovate,  
Oscillate, fluctuate, circumnavigate –

Bloom periodically.  
Hunker down when you must.  
Wobble from time to time without apology.

Know that annihilation's possible any time,  
But expect a bright tomorrow's coming anyway.

### English Translation

And the shadow of twilight fades  
when the light of the ancestors  
forms a mantle that protects and guides us.

A being illuminating the galaxies  
The certainty on the shipwrecked path  
The glint of existence, time and distance.

The ancient aurora of golden light  
at the awakening of the dawn  
the eyes radiant with certainties  
condensed into rays of light.

The eternal radiance of the soul:  
an instant of infinite distances  
and the birth of a million dawns.