

Alexander Search

THE APOSTLE

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The preacher said: «My task, it is to take
To men the mystic balsam of a creed,
And in their hearts lust-taken to awake
A fervour above life and above need.

My work: is to outcast the every greed
For beauty, and the chains of love to break,
And the whole field of youth and joy to rake
Clear for the sowing of my holy seed.

I go to preach a doctrine sweet and sad
Of sacrifice and of benevolence:
I turn my back on life, on earthly bliss.

But e'er I go — oh, God, can I be mad? —
Would I could take to that cold life intense
The soul-perturbing memory of a kiss!»

19-6-1907

Poesia Inglesa. Fernando Pessoa. (Organização e tradução de Luísa Freire. Prefácio de Teresa Rita Lopes.) Lisboa: Livros Horizonte, 1995: 98.

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