

Alexander Search

## THE CIRCLE

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I traced a circle on the ground,  
It was a mystic figure strange  
Wherein I thought there would abound  
Mute symbols adequate of change,  
And complex formulas of Law,  
Which is the jaws of Change's maw.

My simpler thoughts in vain had stemmed  
The current of this madness free,  
But that my thinking is condemned  
To symbol and analogy:  
I deemed a circle might condense  
With calm all mystery's violence.

And so in cabalistic mood  
A circle traced I curious there;  
Imperfect the made circle stood  
Thought formed with minutest care.  
From magic's failure deeply I  
A lesson took to make me sigh.

30-7-1907

**Poesia Inglesa.** Fernando Pessoa. (Organização e tradução de Luísa Freire. Prefácio de Teresa Rita Lopes.) Lisboa: Livros Horizonte, 1995: 100.

1ª publ. in «O Espólio e a Biblioteca de Fernando Pessoa: uma solução para alguns enigmas». Yvette. K. Centeno. in Yvette. K. Centeno e Stephen Reckert. **Fernando Pessoa (Tempo. Solidão. Hermetismo)**. Lisboa: Moraes, 1978.