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Arthur J. Arberry
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FIFTY POEMS OF ḤĀFĪZ

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS
COLLECTED AND MADE, INTRODUCED
AND ANNOTATED BY

ARTHUR J. ARBERRY

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Thou who didst dwell where Ruknabad once ran
Melodious beneath the Persian sky,
And watch with mind serene and steady eye
The tragic play that is the life of man;
And, seeing it was so since earth began
And shall continue after thou and I,
Being spent as swiftly as a lover's sigh,
Depart upon death's trackless caravan;
Out of dross sound by sovereign alchemy
Didst fashion melodies of liquid gold,
Creating riches of thy penury,
Transmuting death to immortality:
Accept these words that leave the whole untold,
And in fresh youth renew thy wisdom old.