

THE POEMS OF

Emily Dickinson

READING EDITION



EDITED BY

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The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press

Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England

2005

1090 This quiet Dust was Gentlemen and Ladies
And Lads and Girls -
Was laughter and ability and Sighing
And Frocks and Curls.

This Passive Place a Summer's nimble mansion 5
Where Bloom and Bees
Exist an Oriental Circuit
Then cease, like these -

1091 To own the Art within the Soul
The Soul to entertain
With Silence as a Company
And Festival maintain

In an unfurnished Circumstance 5
Possession is to One
As an Estate perpetual
Or a reduceless Mine.

1092 There is a finished feeling
Experienced at Graves -
A leisure of the Future -
A Wilderness of Size.

By Death's bold Exhibition 5
Preciser what we are
And the Eternal function
Enabled to infer.

1093 'Twas Crisis - All the length had passed -
That dull - benumbing time
There is in Fever or Event -
And now the Chance had come -

The instant holding in it's Claw 5
The privilege to live
Or Warrant to report the Soul
The other side the Grave.

The Muscles grappled as with leads
That would not let the Will - 10
The Spirit shook the Adamant -
But could not make it feel -

The Second poised - debated - shot -
Another, had begun -
And simultaneously, a Soul 15
Escaped the House unseen -

1094 We outgrow love, like other things
And put it in the Drawer -
Till it an Antique fashion shows -
Like Costumes Grandsires wore.

1095 When I have seen the Sun emerge
From His amazing House -
And leave a Day at every Door
A Deed, in every place -

Without the incident of Fame 5
Or accident of Noise -
The Earth has seemed to me a Drum,
Pursued of little Boys

1096 A narrow Fellow in the Grass
Occasionally rides -
You may have met him? Did you not
His notice instant is -

The Grass divides as with a Comb - 5
A spotted Shaft is seen,
And then it closes at your Feet
And opens further on -

He likes a Boggy Acre -
A Floor too cool for Corn - 10
But when a Boy and Barefoot
I more than once at Noon

Have passed I thought a Whip Lash
 Unbraiding in the Sun
 When stooping to secure it
 It wrinkled And was gone - 15

 Several of Nature's People
 I know and they know me
 I feel for them a transport
 Of Cordiality 20

 But never met this Fellow
 Attended or alone
 Without a tighter Breathing
 And Zero at the Bone.

1097 Ashes denote that Fire was -
 Revere the Grayest Pile
 For the Departed Creature's sake
 That hovered there awhile -

 Fire exists the first in light 5
 And then consolidates
 Only the Chemist can disclose
 Into what Carbonates -

1098 The Leaves like Women, interchange
 Sagacious Confidence -
 Somewhat of Nods and somewhat
 Portentous inference -

 The Parties in both cases 5
 Enjoining secrecy -
 Inviolable compact
 To notoriety.

1099 At Half past Three
 A Single Bird
 Unto a silent sky

Propounded but a single term
 Of cautious Melody. 5

 At Half past Four
 Experiment had subjugated test
 And lo, her silver principle
 Supplanted all the rest.

At Half past Seven 10
 Element nor implement be seen
 And Place was where the Presence was
 Circumference between

1100 The last Night that She lived
 It was a Common Night
 Except the Dying - this to Us
 Made Nature different

 We noticed smallest things - 5
 Things overlooked before
 By this great light upon our minds
 Italicized - as 'twere.

As We went out and in
 Between Her final Room 10
 And Rooms where Those to be alive
 Tomorrow, were, a Blame

That others could exist
 While She must finish quite
 A Jealousy for Her arose 15
 So nearly infinite -

We waited while She passed -
 It was a narrow time -
 Too jostled were Our Souls to speak
 At length the notice came. 20

She mentioned, and forgot -
 Then lightly as a Reed
 Bent to the Water, struggled scarce -
 Consented, and was dead -