

## BALLAD OF A WILFUL WOMAN

### FIRST PART

UPON her plodding palfrey  
With a heavy child at her breast  
And Joseph holding the bridle  
They mount to the last hill-crest.

Dissatisfied and weary  
She sees the blade of the sea  
Dividing earth and heaven  
In a glitter of ecstasy.

Sudden a dark-faced stranger  
With his back to the sun, holds out  
His arms; so she lights from her palfrey  
And turns her round about.

She has given the child to Joseph,  
Gone down to the flashing shore;  
And Joseph, shading his eyes with his hand,  
Stands watching evermore.