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Linfinito

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In this immutable and changing hour
 Returns the Dark-and-Single,
 Asking its heritage of multiform and dappled earth;
 In this still whirling time,
 The sun-wrought fantasy give place
 Before the shadowed fact,

Which was in the beginning, and shall be hereafter.

JAMES R. CALDWELL

L'INFINITO

This lonely hill has always
 Been dear to me, and this thicket
 Which shuts out most of the final
 Horizon from view. I sit here,
 And gaze, and imagine
 The interminable spaces
 That stretch away, beyond my mind,
 Their uncanny silences,
 Their profound calms; and my heart
 Is almost overwhelmed with dread.
 And when the wind drones in the
 Branches, I compare its sound
 With that infinite silence;
 And I think of eternity,
 And the dead past, and the living
 Present, and the sound of it;
 And my thought drowns in immensity;
 And shipwreck is sweet in such a sea.

LEOPARDI

Translated by Kenneth Rexroth