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## As We All Must

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- 70 The East, brave men trying a broad  
And dangerous sea, daring warriors  
Who swept away the Britons, seized  
The land and made it theirs alone.

*Translated by* BURTON RAFFEL

## AS WE ALL MUST

Now I lay me down  
under the great long sun  
and vastly span this day's dying with dreams  
unfastened from a well of mindsight,  
star sighted through space, envisioned aims,  
fast empty dreams.  
I will love in each brief spasm;  
your caramel girl, wilderness, and neap-tides,  
the lily's cheek and the wet city mile;  
I will know the drum's sheer blast  
and the prayed word a fugitive,  
and my lingering  
will find me death.  
All this great day the flies will come  
and the webs will be filled  
and the noon will shiver in its zenith  
reflecting me and morning. Out upon the plain  
a tree will die, finding the dry  
syllogistic consequence of dawn  
enribboned in its boughs;  
then will a hot wind blow to turn it gray.  
Having known the world this day's man  
will turn upon his pedestal with broken arms,  
unlettered by everything but time, unmartyred,  
unloved, and embrace these passing things.

R. S. BRYDEN