

1950

Dawn

Witter Bynner

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NMQ Poetry Selections

DAWN

We must not make it six again,
Sitting up while other men
Take proper sleep.
To bed, to bed! And yet how wise
This dawning is that still has eyes
Aware and deep
And likes to look around while none
Gives audible opinion. . . .
The night and I
Most tenderly, with nothing said,
By morning light open the bed
Where we shall lie.

WITTER BYNNER

SOFT ANONYMITY

How the waves spill upon the blotter beach
to drag a watery, embarrassed tail,
and return, leaping high, to be sopped up,
pride and fury, by lascivious sand.

Again and again from the master, urged
by its swollen form toppling upon sand,
paw sucking sides where a tree stands.

From the salted, rolling body stinking embalmment,
rot to plunge into above the head. Soft
is the stinking corpse of anonymity.

DAVID IGNATOW