The Works of Stefan George

Marx, Olga, Morwitz, Ernst

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LOVE FEASTS IN NEW TERRAINS

I

The coals are glowing. Let the incense ooze!
And when the resins hiss and are dispelled
We cling in clouds where vapours fall and fuse,
And fervent wish and sweet desire weld.

Light up the sconces! Let the tapers shine!
The fumes hang heavy as in sacred naves,
And palm to palm, in silence we divine
A host of melodies that join to waves.

No tender breath! In choruses like these
Virginal down would mar the harmonies
Like curls produced by artifice and lies.

Cast other grains into the brazier, so
Our senses, caught in silver surge, may know
The woman, weary, wonderful, and wise.

II

The sky-blue satin of the tent is traced
With golden symbols of the moon and stars,
And on a socle at the edge are placed
The malachite and alabaster jars.

A triple chain supports the copper globe
Which dims our shining brows with feeble rays,
An ample burnous serves us for a robe,
And let us not forget the myrtle sprays!

The draught will soon beget prophetic tone
We listen to on mats of plaited hair.
Before the hospodar — each gesture known —

The boy profoundly bows. As in a spring
Of magic, I am dawningly aware
Of early days when I was still a king.