

The World of Spirit

I look back and see
A world which lived with faith.
Church, mosque or temple,
Synagogue or standing stones,
Enduring symbols of a higher power.

I look now and see
A world twixt faith and unbelief.
The 'rationalists,' as they call themselves
Rail harshly at unreasoning faith.

I look more carefully and see
That unbelief is allied with two faiths,
The Christian and the Jewish ones.
They proudly call themselves 'the West'
And look with scorn upon the Muslim East.

I look ahead and see
Two worlds, quite opposite in aspect.
In one belief and reason fight no more,
But see in each extension of the other.

The second world is ruled by sour reason,
A mental process trained to disallow
All thought which bears upon the human state.

Religious wars are now no more, hooray!
But in their stead compete adherents
Espousing different ideologies, more ruthless,
Rational and cruel than any older creed.

I look into myself and see a choice,
And know which way our path should lead.

Francis Clark-Lowes