

## **O Fear!**

O Fear! Was it you who stalked the decks of men  
On ships of old by nine or ten?  
O Fear! Was it you who in the midnight air  
Crept into the windows with shapes of terror?  
O Fear! Was it thou  
Who made men weep from stern to bow?  
O Fear! It must have been your ancient seed  
Upon which the men of old and new fell under your bead!  
O Fear! And with a shot gone red as blood  
You shot their hopes with a thoughtless thud!  
O Fear! Now new men sit tired and fearful of death  
For you aimed your sights on their hearts now gone bereft.  
O Fear! And men from here to Galilee  
Share now your ancient lack of glee.  
O Fear! And now the warmth inside your bones  
Is vacating the marrow, is shivering cold.  
O Fear! And Halloween is but a lover's plight  
To expose what rose into your sights.  
O Fear! They mock your wicked ways  
And have done so since ancient days.  
O Fear! Because you number in so many ways  
they gather in groups and crowds of cheer to rid their pain.  
O Fear! And now as we sink deeper into these lines  
The warm goddess strengthens this rhyme.  
O Fear! With one or two lines more  
You may be vanquished from my bones forevermore!  
O Fear! Yes indeed!  
Your evil spirit has unshackled me!  
O Hope! Now you rescue me from all the fear surrounding myself!  
Yes, O Hope! You're all the help I need  
To restore the strength of men once more from here to Galilee!