

Yvor Winters

(1900-1968)

A Testament to one now a child (1937)

We will and move: the gain  
Is purchased with our pain;  
The very strength we choose  
With what we lose.

God is revealed in this:  
That some go not amiss,  
But through hard labor teach  
What we may reach.

These gave us life through death:  
Jesus of Nazareth,  
Archaic Socrates,  
And such as these.

O small and fair of face!  
In this appalling place,  
The conscious soul must give  
Its life to live.