

# The Maiden's Dream

Clément

I  
The Maiden, by her lattice sat,  
The moonlight, o'er her streaming,  
Her cheek's warm blush confessing that,  
Of Love, her heart was dreaming;

II  
Her hands were folded o'er her breast,  
— Oh, blissful intermingling,  
All peaceful, she has sunk to rest,  
Her heart to Joy resigning.

III  
Her bosom can no longer show  
Like Morris' first dewy beaming  
The curtain lids have fallen down,  
Love's faintest mirror screening.

IV  
Woe Sleep, thy driving spirit o'er her  
Life's sorrows tempests stalling,  
Fancy, spread bright scenes before her,  
Her dreams with rapture filling.

V  
But why along the maiden's brow  
So sudden paleness stealing?  
Why doth she pass her hand  
As sudden anguish feeling?

I received your letter today. I should have sent this before but my leisure moments since Sunday last have been full engaged with indell, my short ones almost entirely with some smaller matters. I am so sick of this that I do not know how to get anything done but I will see the drift of some matters to be for your birthday and part but am really so sick of this that I cannot imagine the spirit of the poem. I am sure you will like it.

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"Wake Maiden dead, and in my arms  
Upon my breast reclining,  
While soft eyes upon thy cheeks  
Thy rising thoughts divining."

"Say wherefore as, but now, you lay slept,  
Upon my breast, in dreaming,  
Alternately you ~~awoke~~<sup>awoke</sup> and slept,  
Like exiled angel, dreaming."

"I thought, my love, that to thy breast,  
"With rapturous fondness, I was prest;  
"And blest with every soft caress,  
"By which the loving love express,  
"It seemed, as if left the realm of Time,  
"And wandered to some fairy clime,  
"Whose balmy airs, around us played,  
"Sweet as the Love-kiss of a maid,  
"And softer are the tender tones,  
"By which Love's gentle power is shown,  
"The light was such, as once before,  
"I'd seen - at day's departing hour -  
"When Autumn's clouds half veiled the light,  
"And softened sunset to the night,  
"But softer, sweeter, purer far,  
"Than earthly splendours, ever are."

"I will not strive, to paint the scene,  
"Outspread before our raptured eyes,  
"As could, were it the task, I see,  
"As if I sought to paint the skies.  
"But that which made this world most fair,  
"Was that my love was with me there,  
"While Rapture thus my bosom filled,  
"And every doubt and fear, was stilled,  
"When I but lived, because I loved,  
"Nor wished for life, were Love removed,  
"When thine, all thine, ~~with~~<sup>with</sup> my arms,  
"Arrayed in Women's ripened charms,  
"I lay, as more than willing prize,  
"Impatient, for Love's sacrifice;  
"With one desire - that I might be,  
"A joy, a blessing unto thee,  
"At this sweet hour, whose rapture seemed  
"More pure, than Love before had dreamed,  
"E'en at this hour, methought, thine arms,  
"One fair kiss for Earth's thine charms,  
"She seemed a maiden, but most bright,  
"As beings from a world of light,  
"And if, as my heart's faith claims,  
"Immortals feel the tender flame,  
"Had I been far better far above,  
"I doubt not that the power of Love  
"Had brought her hither from above."

"For e'en the glances which lit her eye,  
"Seemed less of Earth, than of the sky.  
"Her robes thin texture well displayed  
"The alluring beauties of the maid,  
"The form voluptuous, and the limb,  
"So neatly rounded, so smooth and trim,  
"The brow fair, which rose and fell,  
"With such a low-enticing swell;  
"Half seen, half hid, it seemed to bend  
"Each grace that life and Beauty lend -  
"So light and fairy-like, her grace  
"It seemed, she floated round the place  
"As if, life's stealer of old,  
"She sprang down to tread the earthly mold.  
"She came and laid upon thy arm,  
"Her small, fair hand, upon thy arm,  
"Her small, fair hand. You felt the charm  
"Of angel beauty and of ray  
"All trembling, lest you should obey,  
"The impulse, which Love's jealous eye,  
"Within thy twinkling opening glance could spy.  
"One moment gazed the all-beauteous maid  
"Then spoke, and oh! it seemed that played  
"The airs of Heaven around her tongue,  
"And o'er thee, Love's wild witch'ry flung  
"So sweet she spoke, so soft and low  
"Love's accents from her lips did flow,

"As, half commending, half in praise,  
"She bade thee come with her to abide,  
"The home, the charms of our home,  
"I felt that man, though mortal, man,  
"Must and thou in thy beauteous home,  
"And earnest was the ardent prayer,  
"That from my fearful heart might fly,  
"That angel would kindly turn  
"Aside that bitter, bitter cup.

"And when I felt thy close embrace,  
"Reflexing, as each witching grace,  
"Dyest full upon thy ravished eye,  
"I could but clasp thee close and be  
"All trembling on thy sunny breast,  
"To which I've longed to be pressed,  
"I could but feel thy beating heart,  
"And watch thy eyelids' part,  
"And wish that life might be the part  
"That and thy beauteous thought  
"I will not tell the pang of love,  
"The heart exulting in your love,  
"What of a pang that I could tell,  
"When I see you and I see you,  
"And then my love is all the while  
"The faithful one, the faithful one,  
"The faithful one, the faithful one,

"And as you wend, it seemed My love,  
"Flew stronger, while I vainly strove,  
"To crush it down. At last you turned,  
"And all my sufferings discerned.  
"You dropped the fairy maiden's hand,  
"No more availed her magic wand;  
"Her while, half sorrowing half amazed  
"The, now death-like eyes gazed,  
"Once more, she gave my warm embrace,  
"My kisses, she pressed upon my face;  
"And heard the words, in tender tone,  
"Those accents loved, 'My Queen! My Queen!'

"My vision, Love, what may you deem?  
"Forbodes it ill or well?  
"Or what may mean, my curious dream?  
"I pray you, Love, to tell!"

"Why this it means - that Love and burning  
"Have filled my heart with equal yearning  
"So Perry's dance Windsor's charms  
"As while they hasten to Louis arms  
"They bound shall any head receive  
"And tell a few short days shall pass  
"I'll live to love - then you may chase  
"And live to be alive - So Love must reign

of the heaven born dance gait with scowls  
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"Full oft the absent cherished one"  
+ The present only building more over the built  
of the world