

EUCLID ALONE

Euclid alone has looked on Beauty bare
Let all who prate of Beauty hold their peace,
And lay them prone upon the earth and cease
To ponder on themselves, the while they stare
At nothing, intricately drawn nowhere
In shapes of shifting lineage; let geese
Gabble and hiss, but heroes seek release
From dusty bondage into luminous air.

O blinding hour -- O holy terrible day,
When first the shaft into his vision shone
Of light anatomized! Euclid alone
Has looked on beauty bare. Fortunate they
Who, though once only and then but far away,
Have heard her massive Sandal set on stone.

Edna St. Vincent Millay, 1920