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Shine, Perishing Republic

Robinson Jeffers

While this America settles in the mould of its vulgarity, heavily thickening to empire,
And protest, only a bubble in the molten mass, pops and sighs out, and the mass
hardens,

I sadly smiling remember that the flower fades to make fruit, the fruit rots to make earth.
Out of the mother; and through the spring exultances, ripeness and decadence; and
home to the mother.

You making haste haste on decay: not blameworthy; life is good, be it stubbornly long or
suddenly
A mortal splendor: meteors are not needed less than mountains: shine, perishing republic.

But for my children, I would have them keep their distance from the thickening center;
corruption
Never has been compulsory, when the cities lie at the monster's feet there are left the
mountains.

And boys, be in nothing so moderate as in love of man, a clever servant, insufferable
master.
There is the trap that catches noblest spirits, that caught–they say–God, when he walked
on earth.

ROBINSON JEFFERS (1887-1962)

"The poetry of Robinson Jeffers is oriented toward nature — as compared with nature, humans are inferior, and God is indifferent. His poems celebrate the lasting beauty of sea, sky, and stone, the freedom and force of wild animals. Jeffers's philosophy of

'inhumanism' starts out from the idea that man is too selfish to understand the beauty of nature and of things. Because of Jeffers's anti-war attitude (he opposed America's participation in the Second World War), some of his poems were considered unpatriotic" (*Osam Američka Pjsenika, Jeleni Odlažu Kosti* [*Eight American Poets, The Deer Lay Down Their Bones***]** Omer Hadžiselimović and Marko Vešović*, ed.,*Esma Hadžiselimović and Milorad Pejić, *comps*., [Prag: Samizdat, 2021]). Translated by Wayles Browne.

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