

**1832**

**“I BROKE THE SPELL THAT HELD ME LONG”**

**William Cullen Bryant**

**Bryant, William Cullen (1794-1878) - American poet and editor of the New York Evening Post who practiced law before devoting his life to writing. A master of blank verse, Bryant's earliest works are considered his best. "I Broke the Spell That Held Me Long" (1832) - Opening lines: I broke the spell that held me long, / The dear, dear witchery of song...**

**I BROKE THE SPELL THAT HELD ME LONG**

I broke the spell that held me long,  
The dear, dear witchery of song.  
I said, the poet's idle lore  
Shall waste my prime of years no more,  
For Poetry, though heavenly born,  
Consorts with poverty and scorn.

I broke the spell- nor deemed its power  
Could fetter me another hour.  
Ah, thoughtless! how could I forget  
Its causes were around me yet?  
For wheresoe'er I looked, the while,  
Was Nature's everlasting smile.

Still came and lingered on my sight  
Of flowers and streams the bloom and light,  
And glory of the stars and sun;  
And these and poetry are one.  
They, ere the world had held me long,  
Recalled me to the love of song.

**THE END**