

1913

DANCE FIGURE

From Lustra

Ezra Pound

Pound, Ezra (1885-1972) - Controversial American poet, editor, and critic who had a major influence on 20th century literature. After making hundreds of broadcasts for the Italian Facist regime, he was tried for treason, judged insane, and held in a mental hospital for over ten years. Dance Figure (1913) - Published initially in 1913 and later collected in "Lustra," it is a rhythmic poem dealing with the "marriage in Cana of Galilee." (John 2:1). Opening lines: Dark eyed, / O woman of my dreams, ...

DANCE FIGURE

For the Marriage in Cana of Galilee

DARK eyed, O woman of my dreams, Ivory sandaled, There is none like thee among the dancers, None with swift feet.

I have not found thee in the tents, In the broken darkness.

I have not found thee at the well-head Among the women with pitchers.

Thine arms are as a young sapling under the bark; Thy face as a river with lights.

White as an almond are thy shoulders; As new almonds stripped from the husk.

They guard thee not with eunuchs; Not with bars of copper.

Gilt turquoise and silver are in the place of thy rest.

A brown robe, with threads of gold woven in patterns, has thou gathered about thee, O Nathat-Ikanaie, "Tree-at-the-river."

As a rillet among the sedge are thy hands upon me; Thy fingers a frosted stream.

Thy maidens are white like pebbles; Their music about thee!

There is none like thee among the dancers; None with swift feet.

THE END