1819

BRIGHT STAR WOULD I WERE STEADFAST AS THOU ART

John Keats
Keats, John (1795-1821) - Widely regarded as the most talented of the English romantic poets, Keats, whose work was poorly received during his lifetime, could not have foreseen his later recognition. Ironically, he wrote for his own epitaph: “Here lies one whose name was writ in water.” Bright star! would I were stedfast as thou art (1819) - Opening lines: Bright star! would I were stedfast as thou art- / Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night ...
BRIGHT STAR

Bright star! would I were stedfast as thou art
Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night
And watching with eternal lids apart,
Like nature's patient, sleepless Eremite,
The moving waters at their priestlike task
Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,
Or gazing on the new soft-fallen mask
Of snow upon the mountains and the moors

No- yet still stedfast, still unchangeable,
Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,
To feel for ever its soft fall and swell,
Awake for ever in a sweet unrest,
Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,
And so live ever- or else swoon to death.

THE END