

PRAYER

BY CHARLES SLOAN REID

At one with love and consummate release
Of sordid wish, with essence infinite
In voiceless touch, whence creature needs invite
But simple exaltation in soul peace.

Petition mute and formless of demand,
A sense conceived of thankfulness supreme,
Or humble craving, taught of wordless theme,
A pardon for some wayward trick of hand.

An urge of soul, untrained of priestly lore,
Specific in no mortal want's desires,
Sensed only as the spirit's life requires
Sweet unction some lost balance to restore.

Prayer's temple raised within no housing drear,
No walls confine its beatific close
No forms of rote their ritualized text impose,
The peace of freedom marks its atmosphere.

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