

## RESTITUTION

Give back, learn how, what you have learned to take  
And call your own – all the gifts Life gave you  
Before your time was up; the blue bird flew  
Beyond the Dawn that crimson Youth's green lake.  
Be brave and sensible; hand back; forsake  
What greed of living would hang to: the blue-  
Throated bird of youth, wild jungle cry, true  
Call of the Spring in rhythm without break.

Pindar and Vergil, Dante, all the great  
Whose names are trumpets on the Roof of Fame,  
Surrendered one by one the gifts that Life  
Withdraws from us by ancient common Fate –  
End of all Flesh, our death, end of all strife  
But end no less of ageing and its shame.

The Lyceum, Victoria,  
Gozo – 5.vi.68.

J. AQUILINA

## MENTAL DOODLING

On the whole,  
I have grumbled too much about life  
But always  
Like a loving husband about his wife.  
Frankly, my man,  
Loving them both  
I would part  
With neither life nor wife;  
For, mark my words,  
The fun of it all  
Lies in joint struggle and strife.

The Lyceum, Victoria,  
Gozo – 5.vi.68.

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