

# VILLANELLE

LAURENCE DAKIN

Before a temple door in Greece,  
Amid the dust of sun-hushed years  
We heard a spirit murmur peace.

Sunlight and silence and blue-ease  
Fell from the heaven's storied spheres,  
Before a temple door in Greece.

And in the hush and calm of seas,  
Whose pagan calm the temple wears,  
We heard a spirit murmur peace.

Still crowned with light among all these,  
A nation's beauty yet appears,  
Before a temple door in Greece.

And in each column, urn or frieze,  
That shapes its glory and endears,  
We heard a spirit murmur peace.

Beauty endures and must increase,  
And every age upon it rears,  
Before a temple door in Greece—  
We heard a spirit murmur peace.