

## 29

Lightly come or lightly go:

Though thy heart presage thee woe,  
Vales and many a wasted sun,  
Oread let thy laughter run,  
Till the irreverent mountain air  
Ripple all thy flying hair.

Lightly, lightly – ever so:

Clouds that wrap the vales below  
At the hour of evenstar  
Lowliest attendants are:  
Love and laughter songconfessed  
When the heart is heaviest.

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### Notes

This was No. 25 in the 1907 edition.

This lyric is another product (according to Ellmann) of the jaunt to the Dublin Mountains with Mary Sheehy in April 1904.

It suggests a sense of human defiance in the face of inevitable woe – that love, music and laughter are not ignoble pleasures even in the face of the inevitable void.

As the sun wastes away and evening descends, ‘flying hair’ and music emerge as positive forces.

‘Songconfessed’ is another Joycean coinage.

‘Running’ is another image that transforms over the course of the suite, from the gay winds running in companies (No. 8) through the spicy winds running upon the sea (No. 15) to the army running and shouting by the shore (No. 36).

‘Oread’ – in Greek mythology a nymph found in mountains and valleys.

Note the preponderance of trochaic stresses in this lyric: lightly, many, wasted, laughter, mountain, ripple, flying, wrap the, hour of, (at)tendants, heart is.