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The Three Companions

W. H. Auden

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AUTOUR D'UN POÈME DE W. H. AUDEN

The Three Companions

« O where are you going? » said reader to rider, « That valley is fatal when furnaces burn, Yonder's the midden whose odours will madden, That gap is the grave where the tall return. »

« O do you imagine, » said fearer to farer, « That dusk will delay on your path to the pass, Your diligent looking discover the lacking Your footsteps feel from granite to grass? »

« O what was that bird, » said horror to hearer, « Did you see that shape in the twisted trees? Behind you swiftly the figure comes softly, The spot on your skin is a shocking disease. »

« Out of this house » - said rider to reader,
« Yours never will » - said farer to fearer,
« They're looking for you » - said hearer to horror
As he left them there, as he left them there.

W. H. Auden. *A Selection by the Author* (1950 [1932])