

Classic Poetry Series

**Frederick William Henry
Myers
- poems -**

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Frederick William Henry Myers(1843-1901)

Frederic William Henry Myers was a poet, classicist, philologist, and a founder of the Society for Psychical Research.

Early life

Frederic William Henry Myers was the son of Rev. Frederic Myers and Susan Myers (born Susan Harriet). He was a brother of poet Ernest Myers (1844-1921) and of Dr. Arthur Thomas Myers (1851-1894). His maternal grandfather was the industrialist John Marshall (1765-1845).

Myers was educated at Cheltenham College and at Trinity College, Cambridge where he received a B.A. in 1865, and university prizes, including the Bell, Craven, Camden and Chancellor's Medal: however he was forced to resign the Camden medal for 1863 after accusations of plagiarism. He was a Fellow of Trinity College from 1865 to 1874 In 1867, Myers published a long poem, St Paul, which became very popular. It was followed in 1882 by The Renewal of Youth and Other Poems. He also wrote books of literary criticism, in particular Wordsworth (1881) and Essays, Classical and Modern (in two volumes, 1883), which included a highly-regarded essay on Virgil.

Psychical research

Myers was interested in psychical research and was one of the founder members of the Society for Psychical Research in 1883. He became the President in 1900.

In 1893 Myers wrote a small collection of essays, Science and a Future Life.

In 1903, after Myers's death, Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death was compiled and published. It was two large volumes at 1,360 pages in length, which presented an overview of Myers's research into the unconscious mind. Myers believed that a theory of consciousness must be part of a unified model of mind, which derive from the full range of human experience, including not only normal psychological phenomena but also the wide variety of abnormal and "supernormal" phenomena.

Frederic Myers may be regarded as an "important early depth psychologist", and his significant influence on colleagues like William James, Pierre Janet, and Théodore Flournoy and also Carl G. Jung has been well documented.

I Saw, I Saw The Lovely Child

I SAW, I saw the lovely child,□
I watch'd her by the way,□
I learnt her gestures sweet and wild,□
Her loving eyes and gay.□

Her name?—I heard not, nay, nor care;□ 5
Enough it was for me□
To find her innocently fair□
And delicately free.□

Oh, cease and go ere dreams be done,□
Nor trace the angel's birth,□ 10
Nor find the Paradisal one□
A blossom of the earth!□

Thus is it with our subtlest joys,—□
How quick the soul's alarm!□
How lightly deed or word destroys□ 15
That evanescent charm!□

It comes unbidden, comes unbought,□
Unfetter'd flees away;□
His swiftest and his sweetest thought□
Can never poet say.

Frederick William Henry Myers

On A Grave At Grindelwald

Here let us leave him; for his shroud the snow,
For funeral-lamps he has the planets seven,
For a great sign the icy stair shall go
Between the heights to heaven.

One moment stood he as the angels stand,
High in the stainless eminence of air;
The next, he was not, to his fatherland
Translated unaware.

Frederick Wiliam Henry Myers