

Declarations of Innocence

In the presence of the Judge of Eternity:

I have seen nothing in the world but beauty.

I have taken nothing from life but strength.

I returned the goslings to their nest.

I extinguished no man's light; I took neither his life nor his dreams.

I have not wasted the gift of God's labors.

I have not been less than what I was.

I have not severed the cord that binds men to their gods and destiny.

My resolve wavered but my spirit was never broken.

I am not afraid.

I have told no lies.

I have not wasted love.

I have not made my wife blind with tears.

I have not made myself unhappy with plans and foolish insistences that I could not find the pleasure of the hour.

I have made my home within; wherever I go I am no stranger.

I never shrank from my task.

I gave no man poison and called it nectar, but the bitter herb I drank cured and cleansed and freed me because I am now new.

I have not troubled myself with the small words that men say; I hear words that gods weave into silence.

I took the blows and gave no cause for rage.

I defiled the wife of no man.

I have not altered the flow of nature; I release myself to destiny.

I have not run from the flood.

I have not wasted my time with harsh words.

I have heard the seductive song of reason but I know truth in my belly.

I have not ensnared myself in sorrow.

I have not chased after the things I thought would make me happy.

I have followed my instinct; though I have sought the counsel of others I have not let their words stir confusion.

I have never gone back on my words.

I have strained to hear the secrets of my heart rather than the thoughts of another.

I have not wasted light trying to reveal another person's inconsistency.

I have not encircled men with curses.

I have walked the burning sands and seen my crops destroyed and lost my sheep to the jackals but did not ruin the taste of my wife's bread with these troubles.

I have never proclaimed myself.

I have not made false promises or hasty oaths.

I have not bound myself to the gods with a lesser magic than love.

I have not searched for a crack in every pot.

I have not tried to darken the light of the moon.

I have not looked for mold on the bread of the gods; all things are perfect in themselves.

I have not questioned the laws of nature nor scorned the gods of another man.

I have not fed myself before the hungry children.

I have not carried off praise intended for God.
I have not killed the cow nor uprooted the wheat.

I give up life without regret to feed a spirit greater than mine. I shall die a small thing and become a part of a larger world.