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## Laura

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**Moonlight Muse**  
*Abdul Malik Mandani*

Whenever a voluptuous moon,  
radiantly brimful, looms low  
and gilds the tops of the trees,  
The hills, the sprightly streams,  
the languorously reclining lakes,  
She appears to me from nowhere  
Like a dream,  
Like a flash of inspiration  
to a muddled mind.

My Muse glides gracefully toward me  
like an elusive wreath of smoke  
and gathers me in her embrace  
like a silken robe,  
hovering around me  
like the perfume of roses.

She appears as a stirring  
source of fantasy and vision,  
Like the magnificent Northern lights  
displaying luminous draperies  
on a star-spangled polar night,  
Like a spectacular rainbow burst  
after an intense shower,  
Like a shooting star,  
Like a blessed apparition.

I take her  
as one would a reluctant bride  
with gentle persuasion  
and resilient arms!