



Mythopoeic Society

mythLORE

A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis,
Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature

Volume 4
Number 4

Article 8

6-15-1977

The Iconography of Love I and II

Robert S. Ellwood Jr.

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Recommended Citation

Ellwood, Robert S. Jr. (1977) "The Iconography of Love I and II," *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*: Vol. 4: No. 4, Article 8.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol4/iss4/8>

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The Iconography of Love I and II

THE ICONOGRAPHY OF LOVE I

After a thousand days of grainy pallor
Hanging smoke-dry in the tired
Air of mellow half-waiting
A moment broke volcanic
Fireflashblazoned
In which your glance was
Rich with grace as those foaming fathoms
Of translucent light which streaming bathed
Our Lady of the Moon in that night
Of whirring wings and whispered power.

Then He descended who dwells
In the interstices of Exchange, self-
Emptied,
The lesser in the greater, the greater in the lesser
And in my heart I keep
The silent sublunar conception of
God the Son.

— Robert S. Ellwood Jr.

THE ICONOGRAPHY OF LOVE II

Like a crucifixion your smile
Seizes and bolts to a rough-scraped board
A flash of light that ripped
From far ruling Uranus
Into my grey cobweb-intricate days.
And then, like a sunset crumbling
Into a sift of colored chalkdust
Or a descent from the cross
On stained-glass streaked with warm salt rain,
The uranian glory returns beyond
The long low murmuring rumble of heavy sky
And in the night I seize the hard bare wood,
On its good rugged face
Pendant sweet globelets of April.

— Robert S. Ellwood Jr.