

Snell/Lis Wedding Reading

Sunday, October 17, 2004

Reader: Steve Zimmer

Allons! Whoever you are come travel with me!
Traveling with me you find what never tires.
The earth never tires,
The earth is rude, silent, incomprehensible at first,
Nature is rude and incomprehensible at first,
Be not discouraged, keep on, there are divine things well enveloped,
I swear to you there are divine things more beautiful than words can tell.

Allons! We must not stop here,
However sweet these laid-up stores, however convenient this dwelling we
cannot remain here,
However sheltered this port and however calm these waters we must not
anchor here,
However welcome the hospitality that surrounds us we are permitted to
receive it but a little while.

Allons! The inducements shall be greater,
We will sail pathless and wild seas,
We will go where winds blow, waves dash, and the Yankee clipper speeds
by under full sail.

Allons! With power, liberty, the earth, the elements,
Health, defiance, gayety, self-esteem, curiosity.

Camerado, I give you my hand!
I give you my love more precious than money,
I give you myself before preaching or law;
Will you give me yourself? Will you come travel with me?
Shall we stick by each other as long as we live?

From Walt Whitman's "Song of the Open Road"

