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Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834 [from The Complete Poetical Works (1912)] **VOL. I: POEMS**

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834: QUAE NOCENT DOCENT [from The Complete Poetical Works (1912)] Le cose che nuocciono insegnano 1789 (età: 17 anni), bozza di traduzione di Lina Unali.

O! mihi praeteritos referat si Jupiter annos!
O! Se Giove mi riportasse gli anni passati!

1 Oh! might my ill-past hours return again!
2 No more, as then, should Sloth around me throw
3 Her soul-enslaving, leaden chain!
4 No more the precious time would I employ
5 In giddy revels, or in thoughtless joy,
6 A present joy producing future woe.

Oh! potessero le mie ore passate male tornare di nuovo!
Mai più, come allora, la Pigrizia attorno a me getterebbe
La sua catena di piombo che fa l'anima schiava!
Mai più il tempo prezioso impiegherei
In storditi bagordi o in spensierato godimento,
Una gioia presente che produce dolore a venire.

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7 But o'er the midnight Lamp I'd love to pore,
8 I'd seek with care fair Learning's depths to sound,

Ma alla Lanterna di mezzanotte mi volgerei allo studio,
Cercherei con cura di scandagliare le profondità della
bella Sapienza,

9 And gather scientific Lore:
10 Or to mature the embryo thoughts inclin'd,
11 That half-conceiv'd lay struggling in my mind,
12 The cloisters' solitary gloom I'd round.

E Conoscenza scientifica raccoglierei:
Oppure incline a maturare pensieri iniziali,
Che concepiti a metà lottano nella mente,
Girerei attorno alla solitaria oscurità dei chiostri.

13 'Tis vain to wish, for Time has ta'en his flight---
14 For follies past be ceas'd the fruitless tears:
15 Let follies past to future care incite.
16 Averse maturer judgements to obey
17 Youth owns, with pleasure owns, the Passions' sway
18 But sage Experience only comes with years.

È vano desiderare perché il Tempo ha preso il volo
Per le follie passate cessino le infruttuose lacrime:
Le follie passate esortino a cura futura.
Per obbedire malvolentieri a più maturo senno
La gioventù possiede con piacere l'impero delle Passioni
Ma la saggia Esperienza soltanto viene con gli anni.

Early life and works. Coleridge's father was vicar of Ottery and headmaster of the local grammar school. As a child Coleridge was already a prodigious reader, and he immersed himself to the point of morbid fascination in romances and Eastern tales such as *The Arabian Nights' Entertainments*. In 1781 his father died suddenly, and in the following year Coleridge entered Christ's Hospital in London, where he completed his secondary education. In 1791 he entered Jesus College, Cambridge. At both school and university he continued to read voraciously, particularly in works of imagination and visionary philosophy, and he was remembered by his schoolmates for his eloquence and prodigious memory. In his third year at Cambridge, oppressed by financial difficulties, he went to London and enlisted as a dragoon under the assumed name of Silas Tomkyn Comberbache. Despite his unfitness for the life, he remained until discovered by his friends; he was then bought out by his brothers and restored to Cambridge.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Encyclopædia Britannica. 2008. Encyclopædia Britannica Online, 18 Nov. 2008. <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/125261/Samuel-Taylor-Coleridge>>.