"Leda and the Swan"

By William Butler Yeats

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WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

LEDA AND THE SWAN

- A sudden blow: the great wings beating still
- 2 Above the staggering girl, her thighs caressed
- By the dark webs, her nape caught in his bill,
- 4 He holds her helpless breast upon his breast.
- 5 How can those terrified vague fingers push
- The feathered glory from her loosening thighs?
- 7 And how can body, laid in that white rush,
- 8 But feel the strange heart beating where it lies?
- 9 A shudder in the loins engenders there
- 10 The broken wall, the burning roof and tower
- 11 And Agamemnon dead.
- 12 Being so caught up,
- 13 So mastered by the brute blood of the air,
- Did she put on his knowledge with his power
- Before the indifferent beak could let her drop?