

Passa la nave mia colma d'oblio

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per aspro mare, a mezza notte, il verno,
enfra Scilla e Cariddi; ed al governo
siede'l signore, anzi'l nimico mio;

a ciascun remo un penser pronto e rio
che la tempesta e'l fin par ch'abbi a scherno;
la vela rompe un vento umido, eterno
di sospir', di speranze e di desio;

pioggia di lagrimar, nebbia di sdegni
bagna e rallenta le già stanche sarte,
che son d'error con ignoranza attorto.

Celansi i duo mei dolci usati segni;
morta fra l'onde è la ragion e l'arte:
tal ch'incomincio a desperar del porto.

MY galley chargèd with forgetfulness

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Thorough² sharp seas, in winter nights doth
pass

'Tween rock and rock; and eke³ mine enemy,
alas,

That is my lord, steereth with cruelty,
And every oar a thought in readiness,
As though that death were light in such a
case.⁴

An endless wind doth tear the sail apace
Of forcèd sighs and trusty fearfulness.⁵

A rain of tears, a cloud of dark disdain,
Hath done the wearied cords great
hinderance;

Wreathèd with error and eke with ignorance.

The stars be hid that led me to this pain.

Drownèd is reason that should me consort,⁶

And I remain despairing of the port

¹ Translated from Petrarch's *Rime* 189.

² Through.

³ Also.

⁴ As though my destruction would not matter much.

⁵ Fear to trust.

⁶ Accompany.