

Literal translation of lines from Vittoria Colonna's sonnets provided by Harriet E. Smith

Del gran sole i bei rai	Of the great sun, the beautiful rays
Quel sol, che alluma gli elementi e 'l cielo	The sun, which lights up the earth and the heavens
D'accostarsi a quell sol candida e bianca	Towards the bright clarity of that sun
La celeste harmonia l'anima pura, Sol con l'orecchia interna attenta al vero	The celestial harmony, the pure spirit, with the internal ear alone attentive to the truth
Né copre nebbia il sol che vi nudrica.	Nor does the fog cover the sun which nourishes you
Bramo quell'invisibil chiaro lume Che scaccia dense nebbie e quell'accesa Secreta fiamma ch'ogni giel consuma,	I yearn for the clear invisible light that banishes thick fog and for the ignited secret flame which consumes all ice
Spiego vèr voi mia luce indarno l'ale	I bend my wings towards you, my light, in vain
E con le faci in man vive e ardenti,	And with the torches in hand live and burning
Di vero lume abisso immenso e puro	From within a vast pure abyss of true light
Veggio il sol di là su splendor fra noi,	I see the yonder sun shine here around us,

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