'Now Let No Charitable Hope by Elinor Wylie



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Now let no charitable hope Confuse my mind with images Of eagle and of antelope: I am in nature none of these.

I was, being human, born alone; I am, being woman, hard beset; I live by squeezing from a stone The little nourishment I get.

In masks outrageous and austere
The years go by in single file;
But none has merited my fear,
And none has quite escaped my smile.

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