

**Martin Robertson**

## **Dialogue**

Miranda to Ophelia  
in pity and surprise:  
“What are those wrinkles on your brow  
those rings about your eyes?  
Surely life is only love  
and love is paradise.”

Ophelia to Miranda:  
“Life and love are hell.  
But the heart’s misery  
only the heart can tell  
—mind and tongue break beneath it  
and die in doggerel”

Miranda to Ophelia:  
“How can I understand?  
Life was a still morning  
cool on brow and hand  
till flesh and soul flowered  
in those of Ferdinand.”

Ophelia to Miranda:  
“I too knew the clear dawn;  
my bud was near to blossom.  
But the thunder-stone  
struck my world and left me  
broken and alone.”

Miranda to Ophelia:  
“Then you would forget?  
Had you your life to make again  
You would never meet—?”

Ophelia to Miranda:  
“I have not said that.”