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A Parable

Hugh Mater
St. John Fisher College

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A Parable

As we talked and drank
 in the room, a hollow voice
Which came from none of us,
Said: "You have each but
Twenty-four hours to live,
But to make this curse easier
To bear, you may choose on
This, your last day, to
Relive any day in your life."
 then silence.

When, in a few moments, one
Spoke, it was as if a dam
Had burst, and words flooded
From all mouths save mine.
Some saw this as a chance
To correct past mistakes.
One would unbreak her
Mother's heart, another
Unsteal his best friend's wife.
Others thought to relive
 past joys:

One his day of burgeoning
Manhood, his first woman,
Another her first day
And night of wedded bliss,
Another his day of public
Adulation and success.
Still another cackled at the chance,
Armed with hindsight,
To revenge themselves for
 past wrongs.

I heard all these thoughts,
And, weighing them with
Great care, chose:
"I think tomorrow would be nice. . ."

HUGH MATER