

Read History (1954 -- posthumous publication)
By Edna St. Vincent Millay (United States)

Read history: so learn your place in Time;
And go to sleep: all this was done before;
We do it better, fouling every shore;
Line We disinfect, we do not probe, the crime.
5 Our engines plunge into the seas, they climb
Above our atmosphere: we grow not more
Profound as we approach the ocean's floor;
Our flight is lofty, it is not sublime.
Yet long ago this Earth by struggling men
10 Was scuffed, was scraped by mouths that bubbled mud;
And will be so again, and yet again;
Until we trace our poison to its bud
And root, and there uproot it: until then,
Earth will be warmed each winter by man's blood