

THE SEVEN ARTS



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The Astronomer

(From the Drama, "The Madman")

By Kahlil Gibran

IN THE shadow of the temple my friend and I saw a blind man sitting alone. And my friend said, "Behold, the wisest man of our land."

Then I left my friend and approached the blind man and greeted him. And we conversed.

And after a while I said, "Forgive my question; but since when hast thou been blind?"

"From my birth," he answered.

Said I, "And what path of wisdom followest thou?"

Said he, "I am an astronomer."

Then he placed his hand upon his breast, saying, "I watch all these suns and moons and stars."

On Giving and Taking

(From the Drama, "The Madman")

By Kahlil Gibran

ONCE there lived a man who had a valleyful of needles. And one day the mother of Jesus came to him and said: "Friend, my son's garment is torn and I must needs mend it before he goeth to the temple. Wouldst thou not give me a needle?"

And he gave her not a needle; but he gave her a learned discourse on Giving and Taking to carry to her son before he should go to the temple.