Poems from Once Upon a Dream

Martin Buxbaum
FULTON'S CLERMONT.
Courtesy of Frederick Ungar Co., Inc., New York City

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Poems from Once Upon a Dream
by Martin Buxbaum

Once Upon a Dream, a collection of poems by Martin Buxbaum, will be published this month by World Publishing Company. The fourth book of verse from Mr. Buxbaum's pen and his ninth publication, it is Oriental in feeling and will be illustrated in Oriental style with the titles appearing in Chinese characters. Mr. Buxbaum's three earlier volumes of verse, Rivers of Thought, The Underside of Heaven and Whispers in the Wind have recently been redesigned and released with new illustrations.

ONCE UPON A DREAM

Once upon a dream
  Men saw a world
As perfect as a tiny shell
  Clean
And one that would serve them well
But shells are very fragile things
  And so are dreams

LOST POTENTIAL

Things unused
  And unabused
Stay shining and new
  And dead
As an unlit candle
An unplayed lute
  Or a book unread
BROTHERHOOD

To be brothers, each man
Should place his hand
   Into another's
Yet how can I
   If your fist is clenched?

THE UNREAD

All words the wisest men
   Have said
   Are always new
To those unread

THE BEGGAR'S WEALTH

When I was poor, my open door
Drew others in who had no more
   And some had even less
Then I was given a silver vase
To brighten up my humble place
And then I had to lock my door
   For I had something to possess
THE EVIL OF GOODNESS

As a man who is too evil
Will eventually be destroyed
    So will he who is too good
For he makes all who are less good
    Uncomfortable by comparison

PRICELESS JEWELS

A Man's Word
    Or a diamond, rare . . .
Each their virtues share, if given whole
    If broken . . .
    Both are bits of coal

THE CONTINUITY OF LIFE

As snowflake follows snowflake
    So birth follows birth
Through all uncounted time and space
Each
    To its own generation
    Each its allotted place