

“You Whoever You Are”

From

“Salut au Monde” first version published by Walt Whitman in 1856

You whoever you are!  
You daughter or son of England!  
You of the mighty Slavic tribes and empires! you Russ in Russia!  
You dim-descended, black, divine-soul'd African, large, fine-  
headed, nobly-form'd, superbly destin'd, on equal terms  
with me!  
You Norwegian! Swede! Dane! Icelander! you Prussian!  
You Spaniard of Spain! you Portuguese!  
You Frenchwoman and Frenchman of France!  
You Belge! you liberty-lover of the Netherlands! (you stock  
whence I myself have descended;)  
You sturdy Austrian! you Lombard! Hun! Bohemian! farmer of  
Styria!  
You neighbor of the Danube!  
You working-man of the Rhine, the Elbe, or the Weser! you  
working-woman too!  
You Sardinian! you Bavarian! Swabian! Saxon! Wallachian!  
Bulgarian!  
You Roman! Neapolitan! you Greek!  
You lithe matador in the arena at Seville!  
You mountaineer living lawlessly on the Taurus or Caucasus!  
You Bokh horse-herd watching your mares and stallions feeding!  
You beautiful-bodied Persian at full speed in the saddle shooting  
arrows to the mark!  
You Chinaman and Chinawoman of China! You Tartar of Tartary!  
You women of the earth subordinated at your tasks!  
You Jew journeying in your old age through every risk to stand  
once on Syrian ground!  
You other Jews waiting in all lands for your Messiah!  
You thoughtful Armenian pondering by some stream of the Eu-  
phrates! you peering amid the ruins of Nineveh! you  
ascending mount Ararat!  
You foot-worn pilgrim welcoming the far-away sparkle of the  
minarets of Mecca!  
You sheiks along the stretch from Suez to Bab-el-mandeb ruling  
your families and tribes!  
You olive-grower tending your fruit on fields of Nazareth, Damas-  
cus, or lake Tiberias!  
You Thibet trader on the wide inland or bargaining in the shops  
of Lassa!  
You Japanese man or woman! you liver in Madagascar, Ceylon,  
Sumatra, Borneo!  
All you continentals of Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, indifferent  
of place!  
All you on the numberless islands of the archipelagoes of the sea!  
And you of centuries hence when you listen to me!  
And you each and everywhere whom I specify not, but include  
just the same!  
Health to you! good will to you all, from me and America sent!

Each of us inevitable,

Each of us limitless—each of us with his or her right upon the  
earth,  
Each of us allow'd the eternal purports of the earth,  
Each of us here as divinely as any is here.