## Fernando Pessoa XVII — In a red bacchic surge of thoughts that beat

## XVII

In a red bacchic surge of thoughts that beat On the mad temples like an ire's amaze, In a fury that hurts the eyes, and yet Doth make all things clear with a blur around, The whole group's soul like a glad drunkard sways And bounds up from the ground! Ay, though all these be common people heaping To church, from church, the bridal keeping, Yet all the satyrs and big pagan haunches That in taut flesh delight and teats and paunches, And whose course, trailing through the foliage, nears The crouched nymph that half fears, In invisible rush, behind, before This decent group move, and with hot thoughts store The passive souls round which their mesh they wind, The while their rout, loud stumbling as if blind, Makes the hilled earth wake echoing from her sleep To the lust in their leap.

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1<sup>ª</sup> ed. in **English Poems III**. Fernando Pessoa. Lisbon: Olisipo, 1921.