

The Convergence of the Twain (Illustrated): Lines On The Loss of the Titanic (Top 100 Poems Of All Time Book 98)

By Thomas Hardy

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In a solitude of the sea
Deep from human vanity,
And the Pride of Life that planned her, stilly couches she.

#98 in the **Top 100 Poems of All Time**: Thomas Hardy's terse elegy for *The Titanic* - **The Convergence of the Twain**.

The poem describes the sinking of the ocean liner *Titanic* on 15 April 1912. **Convergence** consists of eleven stanzas (I to XI) of three lines each, following the AAA rhyme pattern. The poem's major ideas concern the vessel, its state, and symbolic significance two years after the collision, and a speculation on how the iceberg came to converge with the ship. Hardy is very interested in affiliating the growth and fate of the iceberg and ship through the deification of nature and time. The first five stanzas of the poem concern the submerged ship itself, while the last six discuss its fate while afloat.

Hardy first published *The Convergence of the Twain* in the program printed for a "Dramatic and Operatic Matineé in Aid of the 'Titanic' Disaster Fund," held at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden on May 14, 1912 (at two o'clock, to be precise). In fact, he served as a member of the committee that organized the event. Titanic had, of course, sunk one month earlier on April 15. Convergence next appeared in The Fortnightly Review in June. It was then printed in a special limited edition—prepared by the American bibliophile & author George Barr McCutcheon, as Hardy's editor, Samuel Hynes, notes—in August 1912. Hardy collected the poem in his 1914 volume Satires of Circumstance, Lyrics and Reveries.

*Includes Titanic image gallery

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