

TO A CAMBRIAN TRILOBITE

Oh thou, great warrior of th'emergent earth,
First conqueror of Neptune's mighty deep,
Reveal the secret of thy early birth,
And where and how and why you came to reap
The fruits of life's emergent evolution,
To conquer all that dared to live. Oh, say
for me the reasons for your dissolution,
What mighty battle ended your life's day.
Although you dwelt in glory for a time,
You were not destined to immortal be.
New types replace the old, for in its prime
This form must cede to that control o'er sea.
So tell--must man, who now is king o'er all,
In prime of life be overthrown and fall?

Barbara Eaton Ferguson, P.B.K. A.B.
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