**Walt Whitman, “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer,” 1865**

When I heard the learn’d astronomer,  
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me,  
When I was shown the charts, the diagrams, to add, divide,  
and measure them,  
When I sitting heard the learned astronomer where he lectured  
with much applause in the lecture room,  
How soon unaccountable I became tired and sick,  
Till rising and gliding out I wander’d off by myself,  
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,  
Look’d up in perfect silence at the stars.