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from ELEPHANT ROCKS

# Repetition

First the mind does something  
to see if it can.  
Then the mind does the same thing  
because it can.  
But there is mind left over:  
the excited part.  
This is the poison in repetition.  
But it is a very weak poison  
and no reason to forego  
the deep abiding consolations  
of repetition. The poison  
may build up usefully,  
as it built up in the Egyptians—  
a preservative. What will ever  
equal accretion's extravagance?  
Take the grand conservative temples  
to the golden Horus-headed pharaohs,  
for instance.



POETRY  
FOUNDATION