I Shall Return
Claude McKay

I shall return again; I shall return
To laugh and love and watch with wonder-eyes
At golden noon the forest fires burn,
Wafting their blue-black smoke to sapphire skies.
5
I shall return to loiter by the streams
That bathe the brown blades of the bending grasses,
And realize once more my thousand dreams
Of waters rushing down the mountain passes.
I shall return to hear the fiddle and fife
10
Of village dances, dear delicious tunes
That stir the hidden depths of native life,
Stray melodies of dim remembered runes1.
I shall return, I shall return again,
To ease my mind of long, long years of pain.

Textual Note
This poem also appeared in Spring in New Hampshire (1920) and Cambridge Magazine (Summer, 1920).

Editorial Notes
1. Rune: Ancient letters and characters of the earliest Germanic alphabet, preceding the Latin alphabet. In extended use, a song, poem, or verse, esp. a cryptic or magic verse, spell, or incantation.