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He who hath glory lost, nor hath
Found any soul to fellow his,
Among his foes in scorn and wrath
Holding to ancient nobleness,
That high unconsortable one –
His love is his companion.

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Notes

This was No. 21 in the 1907 edition.

Ellmann dates this lyric to around September 1904, and regards it as one of a number directly aimed at Oliver St John Gogarty.

On C.P. Curran's autograph version of this poem are written the words: 'To Nora, date September 30, 1904'.

Joyce's university friend Vincent Cosgrave (Lynch in *A Portrait* and *Ulysses*) began referring to Nora Barnacle as 'Joyce's companion' after reading this poem.

'Unconsortable' – the first of a number of 'nonce words', invented for the occasion but probably never used by anyone ever again.

'That high unconsortable one' – a pretty good description of Joyce at this time. Joyce was uncomfortable in groups of more than two or three. Even as he searched for a 'soul to fellow his', Joyce was wary of all calls on his allegiance, and at other times fetishized his solitary state. 'His love is his companion' remains an ambiguous formulation.

Tindall discerns echoes of Byron, Monte Cristo, Lucifer and Prometheus.

The 'soul' makes its first appearance here; it will feature again in Nos. 19 and 24.

Words with religious association also recur throughout the cycle: antiphon, heaven, soul, entreat, cherubim, divine, enaisled, irreverent, confess, raimented.

Note use of Elizabethan 'hath'.