

A Crown of Meditations for the Brow of the Sage [Sonnet Corona]

By Peter Samsel

*In honor of Frithjof Schuon
and his Stations of Wisdom*

and

*in gratitude to
Seyyed Hossein Nasr
on the occasion of
his 81st birthday*

The following poem is a sonnet corona or “crown” in the style of John Donne’s “La Corona”—seven linked sonnets in which the last line of each sonnet is repeated as the first line of the next, with the final line of the final sonnet repeated as the first line of the first sonnet, thus forming a completed circle—serving as a poetic summary of Frithjof Schuon’s Stations of Wisdom and presented to Seyyed Hossein Nasr on the occasion of his 81st birthday. The rhyme pattern—two quatrains followed by two tercets (abbacddc/efegfg)—is inspired by that of Martin Lings’ poem “The Muse”, the first in his collected poems.

Exordium

O Holy One, may I return to Thee,
upon my heart Thy presence-bearing seal—
Thy Name—impress the emblem of the Real,
upon my lips remembrance, hear my plea.
Thy Rigor, Mercy, Substance, in Thy Word
all Qualities inhere and Thou alone,
as well the credal witness to the One,
in sundering false from True, that spoken sword.
From these two and those three,
 six themes are drawn—
Thy nay or Yea, to fear, to love, to know,
form of the Prophet, of Perfected Man.
These meditations borne within Thy Sign—
ascend to Thee, descend to me below,
all dross of self remove, for I am Thine.

To read the balance of this article, please [subscribe](#) to this volume.



SACRED WEB

A JOURNAL OF TRADITION AND MODERNITY

www.sacredweb.com