

It was in broad mockery, then, the others retorted:
"Were it not for us, whence his violence and energy?
It is well that he spurns you, Oh darlings of withered
spinsters;
we are as a boon to him, we are the blood and fire of
his body!"
And the plates and serving dishes were vibrant upon the
table,
clattering about with no little fear, what of the clash and
bitterness among their contents . . .

"My dear, I shall bring you a marvelous brown nut-
bread, tomorrow,
dark, whole-wheat bread, with raisins and citrons and
fat almonds in the heart of it!"