

# "WHICH ARE YOU?" AND "SOLITUDE"

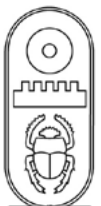
*Ella Wheeler Wilcox, SRC*

*Ella Wheeler Wilcox, born in Wisconsin in 1850, was the author of several novels and books of poetry who served as a member of the Supreme Council of AMORC in its early days. Until her transition in 1919, Wilcox was instrumental in helping to establish the young Order in America. She is perhaps best known for authoring the line, "Laugh, and the world laughs with you; weep, and you weep alone."*



## Which Are You?

There are two kinds of people on earth to-day;  
Just two kinds of people, no more, I say.  
Not the sinner and saint, for it's well understood,  
The good are half bad, and the bad are half good.  
Not the rich and the poor, for to rate a man's wealth,  
You must first know the state of his conscience and health.  
Not the humble and proud, for in life's little span,  
Who puts on vain airs, is not counted a man.  
Not the happy and sad, for the swift flying years  
Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.  
No; the two kinds of people on earth I mean,  
Are the people who lift, and the people who lean.  
Wherever you go, you will find the earth's masses,  
Are always divided in just these two classes.  
And oddly enough, you will find too, I ween,  
There's only one lifter to twenty who lean.  
In which class are you? Are you easing the load,  
Of overtaxed lifters, who toil down the road?  
Or are you a leaner, who lets others share  
Your portion of labor, and worry and care?



## SOLITUDE

**LAUGH, AND THE WORLD LAUGHS WITH YOU; WEEP, AND YOU WEEP ALONE;** FOR THE SAD OLD EARTH MUST BORROW ITS MIRTH, BUT HAS TROUBLE ENOUGH OF ITS OWN. **SING, AND THE HILLS WILL ANSWER; SIGH, IT IS LOST ON THE AIR;** THE ECHOES BOUND TO A JOYFUL SOUND, BUT SHRINK FROM VOICING CARE. **REJOICE, AND MEN WILL SEEK YOU; GRIEVE, AND THEY TURN AND GO;** THEY WANT FULL MEASURE OF ALL YOUR PLEASURE, BUT THEY DO NOT NEED YOUR WOE. **BE GLAD, AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE MANY; BE SAD, AND YOU LOSE THEM ALL,—** THERE ARE NONE TO DECLINE YOUR NECTARED WINE, BUT ALONE YOU MUST DRINK LIFE'S GALL. **FEAST, AND YOUR HALLS ARE CROWDED; FAST, AND THE WORLD GOES BY.** SUCCEED AND GIVE, AND IT HELPS YOU LIVE, BUT NO MAN CAN HELP YOU DIE. **THERE IS ROOM IN THE HALLS OF PLEASURE FOR A LARGE AND LORDLY TRAIN, BUT ONE BY ONE WE MUST ALL FILE ON THROUGH THE NARROW AISLES OF PAIN.**