

## **What-May-Be**

*(inspired by 'Ozymandias'  
Percy Bysshe Shelley 1792-1822)*

I met a traveller from an antique land  
Who said 'An aged and mellow house of stone  
Stands in a great parkland. Nearby, abutt the sand,  
Well built, a happy village lies where frown  
And angry word, forbade by sweet command,  
Tell that its Lady well those people read  
Who yet survive, true to these timeless things  
The hand that taught them, and the heart that fed  
And on her pedestal these words appear:  
"My name is What-May-Be, no rule of kings,  
Nor tyrant's work, enslaving brings despair!"  
Love alone remains. Custom stops decay,  
Each life lived simply, unadorned and bare  
Of selfish ambition drives care away.'

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