

Zodiac

The traveller sat by the fire and said
“Who knows why
Those tiny points of light up there
Are walking across the sky?”

An old man spoke. “They’ve been put there
So we can find our way
They’re signposts across land and sea
When night has ended day

And so that we remember them
We see them as a pattern
And twelve especially we know
Crossed by Jupiter, Mars and Saturn

There’s Leo there, the mighty lion
That Hercules overcame
The task that first brought him
To everlasting fame

And there’s the crab that Hera sent
To join the Hydra’s fight
Crushed by Hercules, the crab was then
Hung up in the night

That red star there, the eye of the bull
They called the minotaur
That was killed by Theseus
Guided by thread along the floor

There’s Castor, Pollux; heavenly twins
One boxes, one’s a jockey
And both of them can calm the waves
When a sea journey is getting rocky

There’s the young Persephone
In the shape that we call Virgo
With the bright star of the ear of wheat
Showing the crops that we grow

The equal length of day and night
Is shown by Libra’s scales
And now that most of us are asleep
I will end my tales”

The fire burnt low, the travellers slept
The stars moved on their way
Marching across the sky above
Until hid by break of day

