



Ulysses

(Nella mia giovinezza ho navigato)

In the days of my youth I sailed
the Dalmatian coast. Tiny islands
emerged on the face of the sea,
weed-covered, slippery, sun-bright as emeralds,
where sometimes a bird perched intent on prey.
When high tide and night annulled them, sails
downwind dispersed more widely,
or fled from danger. Today my kingdom
is precisely that no man's land.
The harbour scatters its light for others;
an untamed spirit drives me onward,
and a sorrowful love of life.

Ulysses Saba