

The background features a central vertical column of vibrant, multi-colored light trails in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. This column is set against a dark blue background with large, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of purple and magenta. The overall aesthetic is dynamic and modern.

Erotica

Romana

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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Erotica Romana

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I

Here's where I've planted my garden and here I shall care for love's blossoms—

As I am taught by my muse, carefully sort them in plots:

Fertile branches, whose product is golden fruit of my lifetime,

Set here in happier years, tended with pleasure today.

You, stand here at my side, good Priapus—albeit from thieves I've

Nothing to fear. Freely pluck, whosoever would eat.

—Hypocrites, those are the ones! If weakened with shame and bad conscience

One of those criminals comes, squinting out over my garden,

Bridling at nature's pure fruit, punish the knave in his hindparts,

Using the stake which so red rises there at your loins.

II

Tell me ye stones and give me 0 glorious palaces
answer.

Speak 0 ye streets but one word. Genius, art
thou alive?

Yes, here within thy sanctified walls there's a
soul in each object,

ROMA eternal. For me, only, are all things yet
mute.

Who will then tell me in whispers and where must
I find just the window

Where one day she'll be glimpsed: creature
who'll scorch me with love?

Can't I divine yet the paths through which over
and over

To her and from her I'll go, squandering
valuable time?

Visiting churches and palaces, all of the ruins
and the pillars,

I, a responsible man, profit from making this
trip.

With my business accomplished, ah, then shall
only one temple,

AMOR's temple alone, take the initiate in.

Rome, thou art a whole world, it is true, and
yet without love this

World would not be the world, Rome would cease to be Rome.