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I Will Sleep translated by Vinnie-Marie D'Ambrosio

Alfonsina Storni

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I WILL SLEEP

Flowers for teeth, dew for your cowl,
herbs as hands, excellent nurse,
smooth your earthy sheets for me
and a quilt of wool moss.

Nurse, I'll sleep, bed me down.
Put a lamp above my head,
a constellation: you choose one;
any one; dim it a little.

Leave: can it be I hear the buds . . .
a seraph's foot rocks my cradle
and a bird drugs me by tracing compasses

on the sky. . . . Thanks. Oh, yes:
if he telephones again tell him, won't you,
it's pointless, that I have just left. . . .

*translated by
Vinnie-Marie D'Ambrosio*