



# THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

1902

*Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

**R**osicrucian poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919) enjoyed great popularity in the United States and throughout the English-speaking world. The spirituality in her works shows clearly the Rosicrucian Tradition: "As we think, act, and live here today, we build the structures of our homes in spirit realms after we leave earth, and we build karma for future lives, thousands of years to come, on this earth or other planets. Life will assume new dignity, and labor new interest for us, when we come to the knowledge that death is but a continuation of life and labor, in higher planes."<sup>1</sup>

Man has explored all countries and all lands,  
And made his own the secrets of each clime.  
Now, ere the world has fully reached its prime,  
The oval earth lies compassed with steel bands,  
The seas are slaves to ships that touch all strands,  
And even the haughty elements sublime  
And bold, yield him their secrets for all time,  
And speed like lackeys forth at his commands.

Still, though he search from shore to distant shore,  
And no strange realms, no unlocated plains  
Are left for his attainment and control,  
Yet is there one more kingdom to explore.  
Go, know thyself, O man! there yet remains  
The undiscovered country of thy soul!<sup>2</sup>

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Ella Wheeler Wilcox, *What I Know About New Thought* (1905), cited in [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ella\\_Wheeler\\_Wilcox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ella_Wheeler_Wilcox).

<sup>2</sup> Ella Wheeler Wilcox, *Poems of Power* (Chicago: W.B. Conkey, 1902). Editor's Note: The title, "The Undiscovered Country" is found in two other places in literature. Shakespeare uses it in *Hamlet's soliloquy* (3.1.76-82) to refer to Death, while in the film *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* (1991), it refers to a newly achieved Peace between two warring peoples, widely believed to be a metaphor for the ending of the Cold War.