**Titanic**

David R. Slavitt

Who does not love the *Titanic*?  
If they sold passage tomorrow for that same crossing,  
who would not buy?

To go down... We all go down, mostly  
alone. But with crowds of people, friends, servants,  
well fed, with music, with lights! Ah!

And the world, shocked, mourns, as it ought to do  
and almost never does. There will be the books and movies  
to remind our grandchildren who we were  
and how we died, and give them a good cry.

Not so bad, after all. The cold  
water is anaesthetic and very quick.  
The cries on all sides must be a comfort.

We all go: only a few, first-class.