

# Observational Astronomy

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# When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer

When I heard the learn'd astronomer;  
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me;  
When I was shown the charts and the diagrams, to add, divide, and  
measure them;  
When I, sitting, heard the astronomer, where he lectured with much  
applause in the lecture-room,  
How soon, unaccountable, I became tired and sick;  
Till rising and gliding out, I wander'd off by myself,  
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,  
Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.

Walt Whitman - Leaves of Grass