

## **To a Swallow**

Relish honey. If you please  
Regale yourself on Attic bees.  
But spare, O airy chatterer;  
Spare the chattering grasshopper!

Winging, spare his gilded wings,  
Chatterer, his chatterings.  
Summer's child, do not molest  
Him the summer's humblest guest.

Snatch not for your hungry young  
One who like yourself has sung –  
For it is neither just nor fit  
That poets should each other eat.

*Euenos, c. A.D. 50*

*Trans. from Greek by John Peale Bishop*