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# A Dream of Bubastis

*By* HARVEY W. FLINK

I dreamt I stood before a shrine of Bast,  
And harkened to the piping of her flutes,  
Whilst in the dusk two Ethiopian mutes  
Came through the granite gates, and bound me fast.

They laid me on an altar-stone and fled  
Like shadows from the hall, and in my dream  
I heard above the flutes a wailing scream,  
And saw the goddess with the feline head.

I groaned, and in the censer's golden smoke  
I watched her lift her black, enormous paws:  
She tore my flesh with gleaming agate claws  
Until, with sweat upon my brow, I woke . . .  
And knew that in the dawn a creature sat  
Sphinx-like upon my chest: it was a *cat*.