

## “Work without Hope” BY SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

\*This poem inspired the book “Nectar in a Sieve” and appears in the first few pages of the book.

\* Epigraph - a short quotation or saying at the beginning of a book or chapter, intended to suggest its theme.

*Lines Composed 21st February 1825*

All Nature seems at work. Slugs leave their lair—

The bees are stirring—birds are on the wing—

And Winter slumbering in the open air,

Wears on his smiling face a dream of Spring!

And I the while, the sole unbusy thing,

Nor honey make, nor pair, nor build, nor sing.

Yet well I ken the banks where amaranths blow,

Have traced the fount whence streams of nectar flow.

Bloom, O ye amaranths! bloom for whom ye may,

For me ye bloom not! Glide, rich streams, away!

With lips unbrightened, wreathless brow, I stroll:

And would you learn the spells that drowse my soul?

Work without Hope draws nectar in a sieve,

And Hope without an object cannot live.