

The Ivy of our love ?

A leaf of ivy is our visiting card
like a cool embrace and a refuge
from the sun's scorching eye
an evergreen palm forever open

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A leaf of ivy is our laughter
multicolour tongues ringing
in harmony to the music
of birdsong and the surging
waves upon the shore
here where our footsteps are luminous
close upon the thyme

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We seek for traces of noble ancestors
who in laying out their temples
like the spreading ivy
worshipped their gentle Gods
and evergreen epics
a crown of olives
their only prize

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John Corbridge (to Xmas 1990)