

Ronald Wilcox

*CONVICTUS*  
*OR*  
*THE NAVIGATOR'S CONFESSION*

"I am the captain of my soul."  
W.E.H.

Well sir, I have with trickery and wicked surety  
set irremediable courses, have by long  
habit fixed as my sole owner myself,  
have practically eradicated from  
consideration all suggestions offered  
freely by others solely for my soul's  
benefit: to wit—I acknowledge  
only the God-set gyro of my heart  
that navigates past shallows, sargassos, and sirens  
toward an unnamed but absolute harbor  
which I alone recognize; but I shall  
set me down there a secret anchor where  
within the blue deep and green fathom of  
my mind (while awaiting calm, riding out  
invisible storms) I shall name me a name  
for my secret place—shall I call it hope?  
Well sir, I call it hope, sir, and be damned!