

# *What the Matter-Gnomes said*

*Reg Down*  
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We temper, we strengthen,  
We buttress and fasten  
Each atom to atom  
In matter our heaven.

We bind us, we steel us,  
In pressure we feel us  
We stagger and swagger  
When denseness engirds us.

Release us by crushing  
The rocks and by breaking  
To splinters and shardlets  
Our bondage enchanting.

From boulders unmattered  
Entrapment unfettered  
Now spaceward expanding  
To homeland we're centered.

We foster our birthright  
To offer you pure light  
To temper and strengthen  
Give humans their will-might.