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In Memory

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In Memory

I

My heart cries,
Wooing dew from the moonlight
To guild my tears.
And I cling to my pillow,
A fragile link with permanence,
As soft memories caress my heart—
Summer warmth dripping into an Autumn night—
The stars, as if of smoke,
Gently shift around me
In the liquid dance of mortality
Performed to a symphony of still muteness.
Blow the flame, feeding the flickering light,
A flower blossoming in a dark blue sky
Petals dropping to float through the air
And root again in the dusty ash.

You haunt my dreams and my faith,
A sultry spectre, all ivory bones,
The cradle of your ribs holding a soft and yielding heart.
Love a warm breeze through the barren hallow,
A timid silence that cements the void
Clinging to the vanishing moments,
Spoonfulls of dusty road—
Parched mouthfuls feeding a feeble voice
That whispers its jealous fears to wandering progress.
Fear and love, trembling houses forever falling
Like raindrops on stones
Splashing like memories into experience.

And me and you, some ethereal presence
Drifting in and out of my conscience
Standing at the end of a bridge
Receding, fleeting, imaginary touch
Racing amongst the stones in the universe beyond—
Richer sorrows have yet to kiss my lips
The languid wind crying, singing,
Playing in the dark forests of your soul
Rustling memories like dry leaves,
Whispering imaginary things in the shadows,
Stirring the strings of my heart
Into an eerie, wobbling chord of despair.
And the moonlight, the twilight of your dreamless sleep,
Sprouts scratches of knowledge
On the stones in my eyes.

II

My heart falls
A leaf slipping through the wind
To settle by the ravaged banks
Of a swollen stream
Chasing my thoughts through the waves,
Ice cold memories
Melting in the ripening emptiness
Dripping in heavy tears
That mix with the ash and dust below—
A sucking mire of dormant hopes.
A stray bird standing on the world's coast
Tempted by the waves, the thrill of flight,
The gentle, unceasing gnawing of that great sea
Dissolving the sands of his little isle,
And he paces anxiously, fleeting glances
Tossed away at fleeting things and faces.

And all the while his heart drowning in its plenty
Now still, now frozen, now gone
Missing one lonely light
Like a shower of gold, trapped in a tear
Tracing its way down a familiar, forgotten cheek
And lost in the void beyond.

III

My heart settles into the river
The shards of a life cast recklessly away
Perhaps to sink beneath amber waves,
A dull glow in the mist of the sea's breath,
Or else be swept downstream
To float beyond sight and vanish.
You live there, in the corner of my dreams,
Like waves of sunshine
Flooding my eyes
Lapping at my feet
A flash of daylight in the night
The warmth of a spring afternoon
Between the sheets of darkness.
Hazel eyes, the curve of your mouth,
Hair flowing through my fingers
Like the sweet breath of dawn...
Shall I sink, or like you be swept away
To vanish beyond sight
The river flowing, flashing, growing in my mind,
Searching for its roots
As I'm drawn amongst the waves.

And so we float,
Held in the sky like leaves in the wind,
Floating silently into the dusk and beyond.
The river runs quick, gleaming,
Conjuring dances of light
That pass in laughter from each wave
As they sing to the sodden banks
Like your eyes once sang to my heart.

Kent Lambert