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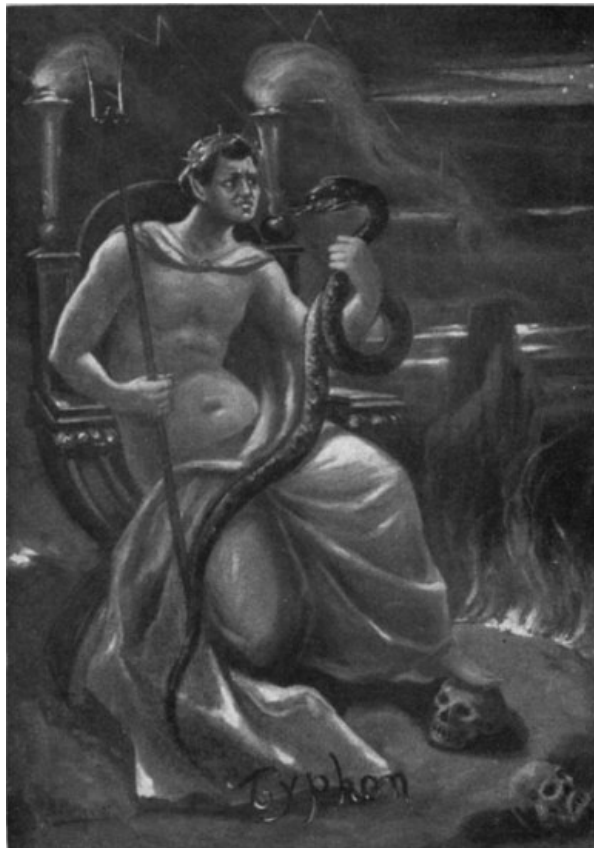
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## BETELGUESE

### *A TRIP THROUGH HELL*



By JEAN LOUIS De ESQUE

*Author of "The Flight of a Soul", etc.*



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TO

Those that felt the wand of Muse—  
Queen Posy's shaft of subtle art—  
Seared to the distant heights of blue,  
Past onyx lees that Sunsets dyed,  
And put to Vellum Couplets' fuse,  
Sped same to Fate with timid heart,  
Then shed dim tears in Sorrow's pew,  
This work's respectfully inscribed.

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**PREFACE**

[Pg 5]

To the readers of this poem an apology is needed for affixing thereto a praem. Some friends of mine have been plaguing me beyond the restrictive line of Patience for the true cause of conceiving the accompanying collection of words, balderdash or what you will, some even asseverating with the eruditeness of an Aristole that it was a nebulous idea, an embryonic form of thought hibernating within the cavities of my sinciput's inner apex, the remnants of that wild phantasmagoric dream of "vicious, vulpine labyrinths of hell," partly expounded in my "The Flight of a Soul."

Now to satisfy everybody but my friends I throw my prejudices to the winds and confess, to wit: That I, with the buckler of Will, wooed Oblivion on September the sixth at exactly 5 P.M., having been up at my desk mauling and drubbing the English language with a vengeance for thirty-six consecutive hours, and that I awoke at 12.30 A.M. that selfsame night with the entire contents of the accompanying—? (have as yet not decided in what category the critics will consign this weird hypotyposis of the Supernal) jingling through my tired brain. I set to work at exactly 12.45 A.M. and wrote until our esteemed companions of the nocturnal hours ceased their unloved music (mosquitos), 5.05 A.M., hied myself back to bed and hypothecated as many winks as Dame Slumber saw fit to allot to me, who am at continued war with her silent wand. The same tactics were employed during the succeeding fifteen nights, wherein I penned eight thousand one hundred and sixteen (8116) lines. This is the truth, the whole and integral truth, and nothing but the unexpurgated truth, so help me Muse (she's blind as a bat) and Satan, of whom I've writ in such an unbecoming manner that, henceforth, I must perforce seek my future Elysian in other haunts than those of the above named Cosmopoietic's own, for fear that his uncoped wrath may blast me into an ape-faced minstrel or, like one red-haired varlet draped with the cognomen of "Nero," use my unbleached bones for illuminating the highway to his insidiate lair.

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To the readers this question may present itself, to wit: Why place Hell in the bowels of Betelguese? Why not the sun or moon?

In the first instance the former sphere is eliminated as a possibility on account of its nature. Being a huge nucleous mass of aëriform fluid, nothing containing animal or vegetable life could possibly exist either on or within its bowels. The moon, too, is excluded for the same reason as is our earth, it having at one time been a part of the latter, broken off by one of

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the giant planets long before the pleioncene era. Betelguese being a celestial pariah, an outcast, the largest of all known comets or outlawed suns in the universe; and, further, so long as Hell has not been definitely placed, why not figure this hybrid planet as a possibility?

Astronomers throughout the world remember the colossal outburst in the constellation Perseus that occurred on February 20, 1901, when one sun exploded, or two made collision with appalling force. It was observed through telescopes and could be seen with the naked eye in full daylight. Both suns were destroyed as suns—that is, they were turned into thin gas and vanished from sight of the largest telescope within less than a year.

Had each sun been the centre of a system of eight worlds like our sun; and imagine each world, sixteen in all, to be inhabited with human beings; then they all perished in a short time after collision and died of what the astronomers call "fervent heat."

Vega, far more larger than our sun, appears stationary. Our sun, with its family of moons and comets, is moving toward it at the fearful pace of fourteen miles per second. At its present rate of speed—and if Vega is really a "fixed" planet—then our sun would reach it in 320,000 years. However, it is a known certainty that the quantity of matter that is invisible is so much greater than the visible that the visible may be ignored. There may, too, be hundreds of millions of dark bodies, extinct constellations far larger than our own sun. Any one of these could approach our solar system and annihilate it with its impact for, in passing the orbit of the earth on their way around the sun, they attain a regular velocity of  $26\frac{1}{2}$  miles per second. If one of these dark comets should overtake the earth and strike it, the velocity of impact would be about eight miles per second; but if it should meet the earth in a head-on collision, the speed, when it struck, would be forty-five miles per second, a momentum beyond the power of the brain to fathom—indeed, man can not think of sixty miles per minute. Let a solid nucleous collide with the earth and imagination would reel at the result.

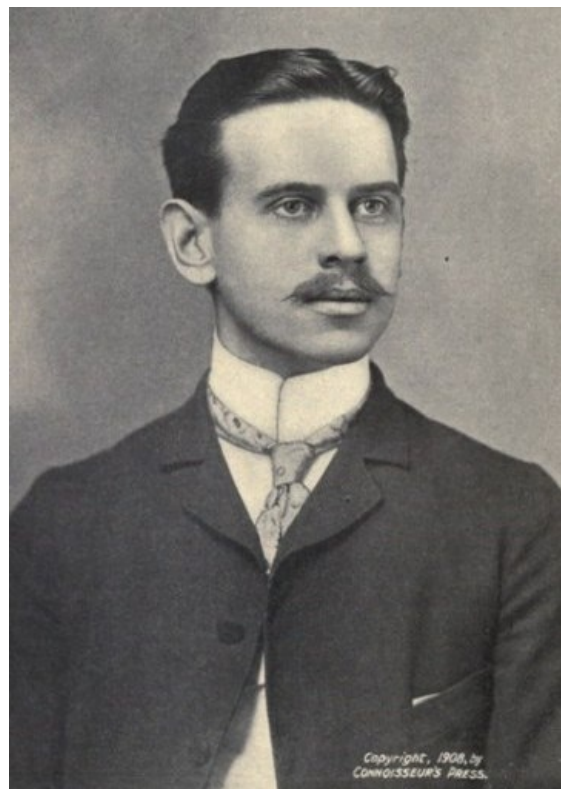
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The earth moves over  $18\frac{1}{2}$  miles every second, and this added to or subtracted from  $26\frac{1}{2}$  makes 45 or 8. If a comet should strike at right angles to the direction of the earth's motion the speed of collision would be  $26\frac{1}{2}$  miles. But 8,  $26\frac{1}{2}$  or even 15 would hurl destruction if large enough.

A visible change is taking place in the giant sun Betelguese. Its nebulæ is slowly but surely disappearing. One hundred years hence it may be a dark planet, invisible to even the most powerful telescope. However, Hell will reign on, through eons and eons; and, if this sun, or any other, contains its kingdom, and mankind lives for another thousand years or more, those who should be so unfortunate as to miss the jagged heights to Paradise need not worry, for glozing imps will lead them to the fasthold of Typhon's weird home. Have no fear.

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September 22d, MCMVII.



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## WHEN I AM GONE

What good is Fame when I am dead and gone,  
When in immarcescible regions  
My temple rots and soul doth storm and mourn  
As bones of mine adorn an early grave?  
Who'll hear and know that I worked hard and long,  
That twin sighs and tears storm'd me by legions,  
My life, a sunless one—bleak and forlorn.  
No ray of light whilst I in thralldom slave?

What good is Fame when I am dead and gone,  
When in fenowed abyss', stark and cold,  
I wend my solemn footsteps and atone,  
Whilst Fame my brow doth crown with its renown?  
Who'll know that heart and soul bled on and on,  
That storm-swept aches and woes were mine untold,  
My life a waste, from which there stole a moan,  
No Aureole whilst I in sorrow drown?

What good is Fame when I am dead and gone,  
When far and wide my praise is heard and sung,  
And busts and marble-heads my deeds unfurl  
To multitudes that knew me not in flesh?  
Not when I'm gone care I for Renown's dawn,  
Now, whilst I labour at Fame's lowest rung,  
Let me reap dame Approval's brightest pearl  
And sip its olpe as I my battles thresh.

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## BETELGUESE

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ressed by crystal dewes and light  
Beyond the realm of scale and fin,  
Incarian Thought flits Fancy wings  
To hazards where a crimson urn  
Makes scarlet this eternal height  
Of sunless suns and reigning sin,—  
Flame-decked this plain of warring kings  
Where poisoned fumes and beacons burn!  
And thro' the hyoids, huge and red,  
Past portals black and guidons bright  
To onyx lees and opal sands,  
The Cyclopean vaults of dwale,  
And cavern'd shapes that Typhon bled,  
Greet each wand'ring spectre's sight;  
Where pixies dance on wind-blown strands,  
Lurke gyte incubi in a hall.  
Here, then, reigns gyving, batter'd Doom!  
Where shadows vague and confined light,  
Spit broths from splinter'd wracks and domes.  
Where viscid mists and vulpine cries  
Rise from the moat of dungeoned gloom  
And rasp the stationed walls of night  
Until sequesteréd skulls and bones  
Are made to hear the moaning sighs  
That some mad Titan, rayed in gold,  
Wrests from Damnation's siffling tomb.  
And labyrinths of Horror's Home,  
'Mid vapours green and aisles unsunned,  
Provoke each cursing mattoid's fold  
Until the night is changed to noon  
By cowed magicians on a dome.  
Then wizardry, strange, unsummed,  
Reveals each varlet, Figgum's might:  
A hemless rabble from the South  
That some wild Trojan flayed and curs'd,  
Skirr thro' the Cauldron's broken lane  
And wing for implex strands and light.  
There, where tapers flare on Hell's mouth  
This clan damns each giant Soldan first.

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And Medeas in this vast plain,  
 Who blink at yon dysodile lamps,  
 Slap thenars and each bifurcous  
 As javels drink from scyphus' bright.  
 Blood-curdling monsters on a rope  
 That sate upon the damn'd one's camps  
 As hell-winds gleam most glorious—  
 Each Vandal's music day or night!  
 Vain! vain! Each isle of hidden Hope!  
 Alas! Alas! Each olpe of Remorse!  
 Each vaulted soul and spiral thought,  
 Swirl in the throes of waters cold;  
 Where rivers with the venom crawls,  
 Croak bat-faced incubi till hoarse.  
 And succubi that Hecate taught,  
 Bedecked in byss and spangled gold,  
 Sing runes unto the dungeoned halls.  
 Then burning ghauts and crimsoned peaks,  
 Vomit each, green, abhorrent clouds;  
 The Temple's drum sounds tomb and death  
 To those that came for unsung trust,  
 And pyres that smoulderéd for three weeks.  
 Spit wenches' blood thro' addling crowds  
 And filch each leering vyper's breath,—  
 Vile japes that dam all struck with dust!  
 Erelong unholy fugitives roam  
 'Mid imbosk caves and moaning dales  
 To piercing screees of purple gloom,  
 Where gurgling sighs and rasping moans,—  
 Each bloody vampyre's home of loam  
 As life-tides drip to scarlet vales,—  
 Unshadowed haunts of darkling Doom!  
 Add terror to the rasping groans  
 That roaring surfs of rubic blood  
 Fling to each afrite's acrid crypt.  
 And mildewed skulls and ashen bones  
 That lie before each pillaréd mount,  
 Speak tidings of a leprous flood.  
 And where giants' carcants flare and sit,  
 The battle-crests and surging foams  
 That toss each swoll'n Cauldron's Count  
 As pyramidal realms unsunned  
 Glare at the stricken, tamper'd souls,  
 Stark wenches seek blind seers of lust  
 And curse each monster's hairless head.  
 Where fungus-fagots gleam unstunned  
 As witches dig unfathomed holes  
 And bury Helms in powderéd dust,  
 Sleep mourners of the newly dead  
 Until rayed Aureoles bright, flare,  
 And sparkle like Asian stars.  
 Hyperaspists of templéd night,  
 And yawning caverns cold and bleak,  
 Forsake the crown of addling Care;  
 Whilst afrites in bright jeweled cars,  
 Lured by the phosphorescent light,  
 Scale an immarcescible peak.  
 When giant uncus' of the damn'd  
 Shake Palsy's wand of brooding Fear,  
 And Hecate spins her daughters round  
 The whirling halls of spastic gloom;  
 When afreets prance on blister'd sand  
 As blood-shot jazels deck each peer,  
 Each empire froths a raving hound  
 That storms each zone of purple doom.  
 And scarlet foam and hiss of oils,—  
 Abhorrent signs of yawning hell!  
 'Mid roaring winds and echoes loud  
 As beaches ring with Torture's hold,  
 Dim shapes writhe in a cauldron's coils  
 While canceréd ghouls sound Circe's bell;  
 Where hideous screees stem the crowd,  
 Faffling gawks gleam like burnished gold.

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A gangrel imp that Satan flayed,

Shrieks deeds of sin that man-wrecks wrought  
Ere gyving Death each culprit smote;  
Where straggling moonbeams cleft a dome,  
A Prince in splendor stands arrayed  
And rants his spleen unto a ghaut,  
Where mongrel whelps their sorrows wrote  
In channels with a harlot's bone.

A kingdom vast with jasper light  
Greet jejune souls within this shoal,  
Where witches lure each helot's eye,  
Each gyving hoodlum, seer and sage.  
In blazing tankards gleams a sight  
As o'er their heads giant rocks roll,  
Of skinless nudes that gasp and die  
As poisoned lizards vent their rage.  
Then, vile squats blast the eerie air!  
Glozing gnomes of pond'rous built,  
Peer at plagues that goddard's hold;  
Writhe vermin in each ghoul-king's olpe,—  
Blind death within a secret lair!

A varlet who his wine hath spilt  
As Scorpions smote him treblefold,  
Is thrown into a stagnant sea  
By Lordly Helm of bad repute,  
Whose visage, curl'd in ugly mien,  
Vext at each leper's font of spleen,  
Invokes a hairless witch to scan  
The shambling hordes that boon refute,  
Who lifts her unguis, long and lean,  
To curse each vyper's bloody dream,  
Each mongrel and forsaken man.  
Then quivers that cippus' hurl'd  
As templéd vaults are splinter'd wide;  
And fearful fancies cleave the night  
When reeking gores pierce hollows black,  
Smite vandals that in sleep are curl'd:  
And naiads that the vapours hide  
In shadows vague—Unholy light!  
(Spectres to each soul on a wrack)  
Dank caverns of each vaulted soul  
With spiral thoughts of feveréd haste,  
'Mid the throb of murderous life  
In haunted zones of vandals gyte,  
Squirm at the pulse of this blind shoal  
Where blood-veiné dreams and acrid waste  
Cut thro' the senses like a knife  
And bid Icarian Thought to sit  
Below a bleak, untower'd home,  
Where fagots that the skelp hath stunned—  
Plunderers of unfathomed night!  
Glare thro' black shadows vague with forms  
Convulsed with cries that pierce each dome  
As impeached gumps seek plains unsunned,  
(Satellites to mounted Light!)  
Teem in the wind-strewn crest of thorns  
A phantom that a charnel urn  
Spewed from its lap and canceréd fold,—  
Trophies of grim Destiny's crypt!  
A burning pyre, whose deadly breath  
Stir sighs of men as cesspools burn  
A harlot strewn with virgin gold  
That some malignant, stol'n script,  
Condemn'd to witches' fateful death,  
Spells reigning doom to one and all.

Where jarbling gumps ride hydras green,  
And utter sharp, a curdling curse,  
And wingless zimbs that storm each dell,  
Glare at each shatter'd dome and wall  
That speak of prowling apes in dream,  
Of dragons drawing Horror's hearse  
When bloody lanes of soulless hell  
Bathed monstrous this eternal land.

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When Soldans clasp dank Vellum old,  
And carcants shine like scarlet foam,  
With hiss of snakes and burning oils  
As dirges sway both imps and damn'd,  
A beacon's light that cleft Doom's fold,  
Peers at the Cyclopean home  
Of furnace-heat and writhing coils  
Of immewed depths as cyphers red  
Proclaim each gyving monster's deed.  
And woful runes rake this giant gloom,  
Phantastic coals lurk in the dust,  
Blind whelps lie in an onyx bed  
And ponder words as thumb-screws bleed  
(Unto the music of king Doom)  
Each gangrel villains heart of lust.

Beyond the halls of numberéd dead  
Where lambent lights and crystal dews  
Invoke the ghouls to guard each tomb  
That vandals of the sobbing night,  
When hell-winds stir the conquered dead,  
And thunder shook the mourner's pews,  
Giant cavalcades of marshalléd Doom  
March thro' the phosphorescent light  
Unto the headland of the West,  
Where pageantries of warriors bold  
Scyle crafty sins and purple lusts  
Until the peaks and portals bright,  
Where buried kings are tombed at rest,  
Sweat odours dank with Torpor's cold;  
Infernal pæons shake the busts  
Of idols planted in the light.

And, ere immewed gyres froth black mists  
Unto all ghauts and splinter'd domes  
That cypher signs of dungeoned dell,  
A turgid dawn arrays this vale,  
Each dysodile scavenger sits  
On a tomb and fondles gray bones;  
An eyeless toad croaks from a well.  
Then cosmic force forsakes each dale:  
'Mis Cyclopean pulse of hell  
Giant cauldrons vomit vapours green  
And skirr thro' bristling lanes and halls:  
Whilst beacons die and shrood each soul,  
Dank tears drop on a fatal bell,  
Wrought by a Titan's sombre queen,  
Where graven vipers soop the walls  
With blood from maidens scourged as toll.  
Sentinel silence then holds gloom!  
Vile squats curse roaring pools inflame,  
A swarthy gump leers at the damn'd,  
A sultry storm invades each realm.  
Reared in incondite depths of doom  
As shadows spell each sinner's name,  
A Necromancer mounts a stand  
That storms and sleet struck with their helm,  
And smites the weird elements.

A cesspool stunn'd with offal's stench,  
And ulexite—Each mattoid's curse!  
Set in twin ridges black and red,  
Obtest the foam-sprayed battlements  
To count the blood-drops on a bench  
That the coals of Tartarus nurse—  
Disastrous, imbosked Torture's bed!  
Make viscous this grim philster's hold.

Saffron Teocalli in the West,  
Whose spiréd domes hold priceless stones,  
And censers' fumes lull sighs and moans  
As barriers dank, flee their fold,  
Betrayed by crystals on a crest  
That ride this kingdom's batter'd gnomes,  
A fitful syrinx stills all groans  
As chasms roar with devils' glee.

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Then fancies greet each goblin's eye,  
Each donga's depth and mount unsunned:  
A quire's rune, in onyx dress,  
And black-linkt harps with eyes that see  
Each blood-set jazel in a sky,  
Where heights eternal reign unstunned,  
Pierce sylvan airs that wizards bless.  
Come from sequestered shoals of hell  
Blithe pixies and lithe naiads fair  
That revel till the ev'ning skies  
Grow lustrous as Arcadian noon.  
Then witches in an implex dell,  
With stranggling robes and burnished hair,  
Flee thro' Autumnal shades and dyes,  
While quickly from the sandaléd gloom,  
That struggles at the pillaréd light,  
Provoked by turbid drops of blood,  
She gleams upon a tower'd home  
That gyving hands, of crafty imps,  
Reared for the Vandals of the night,  
Where seething pores froth devils' flood,  
And dusky shales leak scarlet foam,  
Or lightly lifts her feet and skimps  
Unto a rubic, bowered vale,  
To list unto a clanging bell  
That spells these signs to startléd wrecks,—  
Titan's satellites, Hell and Circe!

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To muse in gorce's dank and bleak  
'Mid shatter'd mounts that devil's split!  
To mourn in plasmic Temple's fold  
With gyving sod no King can shirk!  
A spangléd pomp of Death's gray peak  
Where owls and lizards blink and sit  
As curdling cries of monsters cold  
Pierce hollows deep until they irk,  
Each surf-thrown afrite's eclipsed dome.  
And cursing clans that felt the heat  
That dwale obscured in shadows vague,  
Clash thro' the broken forest boughs  
Until each ronyon's stuck in loam.  
There, then, bivouacs a unco Cheat,  
Whose limbs were struck with pains of ague,  
Who lifts his sightless eyes and sows  
The seeds of Thaumaturgist's arts.  
Then shakes his fist above all necks  
(Whenas the dirges pierce the gloom)  
And sheds his addling tears of woe.  
Perturbéd at sights of flashing darts  
That dragons hurl amongst soul-wrecks,  
He smites a staff upon a tomb  
Where phosphorescent torches glow,  
And mouths his words at earless owls,  
Past ribboned dusk and pillaréd woe,  
Where sonless maids their sorrows heal,  
And mixes purple mists with light,  
Both moaning airs and cringing howls,  
The swirling skelp that heavens show,  
And changes this vast plane of weal,  
This kingdom's tomb of rasping night  
To elfin cheer as dances bloom,  
And speeds his flight from Terror's urn,  
Past jasper lanes where moonstones glow,  
And turns his eyes at writhing Hell,  
Upon the spectral haunts of Doom,  
Where fiends in hissing Cesspoles burn  
'Mid howls of pain from vassals flow  
That rake each skull-blown vale and dell.

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Where syrt sucks jargling javels mad,  
And carcants cast a luring light



From mildewed screes and mounts that scyle  
Veiled augueries of battling Hell,  
A charnel shard assails the damn'd  
Thro' vapours green and siffling night;  
Monastic caverns rasp each isle;  
A poisoned skink croaks from a well.  
And mournful wraiths sob hard and loud,  
A smotheréd sigh proclaims more woe,  
The lounging imps grasp tomes of old  
And rant therefrom each damn'd one's name.  
And horrors, snarling at each crowd,  
Assail each kingdom with its show:

A noctivagous dragon bold,  
Hastes thro' the aisles of death and shame  
And haunts the cajons of the dead,  
There fungus-tapers gleam like gold  
Before a ghoul-king's jeweled throne:  
There, too, upon a Temple's arch,  
Bivouacs a witch who scans the bed  
Of buried kings and queens struck cold  
And lifts her voice to splinter'd dome  
To stem the brooding Djinnee march,  
And with the dusk that meteors split,  
She tries the figgum of her lust,  
And throws her voice at portals dark,  
Past burning pyres, where moaning airs  
Call the help of Conjury's script;  
And, ere cyphers burn in the dust  
The names of new souls in this ark,  
The ghosts of the dead prance in pairs.  
This is the sphere of Dust and Tomb!  
Where Trojans struck with palsied Death  
As Satan smote each cavern's fold,  
And whistling heat swirl'd Circe around  
The coffined slabs of Aeëa's womb,  
When kingdoms fought with rasping breath  
As stellar domes grew black and cold,  
Auric oriflammes storm'd the mount  
As bristling lances smote giant hordes;  
Then gorey devils fought with lust  
As vulpine cries smote each jinn's ear,  
Black Dragons swore beneath their breath  
And murdered all rebellious Lords;  
Strong hands that knew each axe's trust,  
Escutcheons that all princes fear,  
Hurl'd swift destruction and black death.  
Where Titans storm'd a Monarch's throne,  
There sleeps a Ruler carved in stone;  
Where vultures guard a serpent's home,  
A quarteréd warrior tells its tale.  
Perturbéd at dews that drip from dome  
As wattling apes their horrors groan,  
The witch forsakes each glozing gnome,  
Affrighted at this gurgling vale.

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On crimson mounts where hydras peer—  
Affronting devils in the gloom!  
Unsypheréd regions wrapped in light  
That hide dank vapours of each tomb,  
Lurk throaty imps throughout the year  
Who sing their runes as lepers soom;  
Red-embered gnomes within this night  
Where scarlet dyes bathe Torture's womb!  
And Djinnee gasps add to the sight  
That dragon-worms bred in this surge,  
Build temples for queen Sorrow's home;  
And pageantries of Typhon's bloom—  
Immarcescible sklayres of night!  
And shadows bleak, that sins do purge—  
A show for Satan on this throne!  
Invoke the Cauldron's spraying gloom  
To newer deeds of hell-lashed lust;  
Tho' dusky wizards rake the skies  
(Eternal hounds that all beguile)  
Unstable dreams lure Fancy fane

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Below this star's unfathomed dust,  
Where shatter'd domes list to the sighs  
Of skinless wenches on an isle,  
Where nymphs call her Christian name.  
Where purple mists like poppies bloom—  
Dank dulse within green rivers cold!  
A flayed and sobbing maid doth lie;  
Eternal curse of bedlam night  
Speak of sepulchral haunts of Doom;  
Unnumberéd skulls their woes have told  
To studded domes and opaque sky  
Beneath the Arching vales of light.  
Alight with fires red and green  
That show the coffers of each tomb,  
Jarbling vandals rake the night-coals,  
Shales and husks; and, ere reigning night  
Provokes each harlot's fitful dream  
To cleave the casements of king Doom  
And reach the swoll'n, acrid shoals,  
Where stationed Mounts are penciled white  
That mark the maw of raging hell,  
Till, eyes awake stare at each flame  
Unsung and, on boulders that burn,  
Peer at two lordly squats in dust  
As wenches drink from poisoned well,  
'Mid purple sins and naked shame  
In Typhon's olpe and churning urn  
Of stranded devils, souls and lust.

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When earthly homes are tombed in dust,  
And Life forsakes geotic shoals;  
When midst the tombs of penitence,  
When coffins damp, and slimmy clay,  
Each Lordly Helm is tossed in trust  
To spiral vaults from plasmic holes,  
Convolving cyclones spin him hence  
As agate torches light his way.  
Unmutteréd sighs teem in the air  
As structural stars pass him by,  
And twisting clouds shape eerie forms  
Until he reaches Satan's home.  
Unholy visions curse and swear,  
Gyte vipers lull each demon's sigh,  
Giant Dragons whom no Remorse storms,  
Shake fists at opals in a dome.  
And Cesspools vext with odours strong  
From stifling shard and putrid dung,  
'Mid caverns large and Cauldrons deep,  
Vile squats in teeming pewter burn;  
And shrieking vipers wield a prong  
Above a monster, quarter'd hung.  
The Tasmanian Devils keep  
The sod turn'd in a gyre's urn  
That no lost soul can undulate:  
Hence seers and sages, tossed in sin,  
Rant rubics to each reigning king,  
Each glowing pyre is fed with oil  
By afreets reared on bottled hate;  
Infernal tapers light this Inn  
As poisoned vapours to us cling;  
Re-embered beacons on this soil  
Flare spastic shadows to each tomb.

[Pg 36]

[Pg 37]

In vain we sigh for fleeing grace  
Within the pale of turbid dyes!  
In vain we look for hope, sweet rest,  
Within this crypt of whistling Doom!  
When in monastic nights of haze  
The battlements retard giant sighs;  
When marshalléd mists from out the West  
Cloak ramparts black with ugly light,  
A rubic Soldan rakes each ghaut,  
Each sleeping vandal, imp and soul.  
No astral eyes laugh from these skies,  
No nightingales sing in the night;

[Pg 38]

A dungeoned curse that villains wrought  
Rasp each eternal vault and shoal.  
Then one-eyed mongrels split the dyes  
Of roaring winds and raging storms,  
Dim shapes flee to the haunts of gore,—  
Each Cyclopean Dragon's goal!  
And groaning cries from maidens fair  
Is heard by spectral, gangrel forms,—  
The writhing thin is flayed some more!  
Its secret sins,—Black deeds of Soul—  
Is scourged as copper-burnished hair  
Hangs from her alabaster head,  
Both feet and arms are screwed till black—  
A sign that Hell reigns on, unstunned.  
Then incense swung by priestesses,  
Salute the newly, plunder'd dead,  
The bloody sight upon the wrack,  
Where cringing groans once rose unsummed,  
Is cover'd by the murderess.

[Pg 39]

Where restless hawks and chainless ghouls  
Blink bleary orbs at dust and stone;  
And glozing night-gnomes love the sight  
That geysers toss upon their crest,  
Feal afrites bathe in a pool  
And wash each harlot's bloody bone.  
Scorpions on serai's height  
Peer at each forge's raging breast,  
Whilst faffling gumps and hairless seers  
Stretch shanks and arms and yawn till hoarse,  
And vapours green and beacons red,  
Feared coming Dawn, and fled in haste;  
The bulwarks that each hoodlum fears,  
Sink in a cajon's livid course;  
The winds and storms are silent, dead,  
As barriers red bathe the waste.  
What of the sight when Horrors swirl,  
When oceans ring with Terror's roll?  
What of the galley-decks and wrecks  
That felt the force of angry Hell?  
When kingdoms fought each warring Earl,  
The incubi cursed each lost soul;  
When vandals broke the idols' necks,  
Giant battle-axes smote each dell.  
And, then came there galvanic gloom!  
An acrid oath and savage howl,  
Hurl'd at an idol's austere ghoul  
By grizzled rogue and mocking gnome,  
Perturbéd as vandals shine and bloom  
In robes of pearl and tazzled cowl,  
Throw Hecate's spawn into a pool  
Who stung them with a poisoned bone.  
This wanton witch of evil fame,  
Vamped with both hatred, murder, lust,  
Speeds cycles of the Future's curse  
And damns each goblin, skink and knave.  
Then pyres and ghauts flare once again,  
The halls are swept with burning dust,  
Six Dragons bear the dead one's hearse  
Unto the newly, opened grave.

[Pg 40]

[Pg 41]

Ere the quaking Dawn shakes its crown  
To tower'd peaks and hyoids red  
That hide blind fathoms of this sea,  
An opal light arrays each plain;  
Each naiad rumps on velvet down;  
A bat-shapped Buzzard makes its bed;  
A red-tongued Gecko storms each lee.  
Then apes and adders writhe with pain  
As Cauldrons vomit oils that burn;  
'Mid churning storms of stinging sleet,  
Vial haunts of gore spill their quest  
And murder with unholy lust,  
Wilst fagots, beacons, torches, turn  
Hell's Pompeian shoals to heat;

[Pg 42]

And viscid mists rise in the West—  
Dank treasures of Damnation's dust!  
In search of silence, sleep and rest.

When in a vale we lie and dream  
Of sanded beach and laughing skies,  
When Fancy lifts her wings and soars  
To agate strands and ocean's breast,  
A gangrel soul begins to scream  
Black tokens of prevailing sighs  
As furnace-ovens sweat giant pores.  
And other things perturb each crypt,  
Each vulture's brood and figent owls:  
A belching mountain in the South  
Hurls boulders thro' the fearful night:  
A demon-quire rants from script,  
Led by staccato raspings, howls;  
A meteor vaults a Cauldron's mouth;  
A sombre maid doth long for light.  
Bleak wintry winds engulf us all—  
Hosannah! cry the fretful mobs;  
White-heated storms assail all heads—  
Triumphal pæons shake the air!  
Unnumberéd gawks roam thro' each hall—  
Where Typhon sits, a maiden sobs!  
Conscience stabs our nightly beds,  
Remorse leers daily at dame Care.

[Pg 43]

A Donga, deep with squirming gnats  
And acrid coils,—a hole of Death!  
And runnels thick with arid dung,  
Flow past a Temple's swoll'n arch,  
Where warring tribes of hungry cats  
Fish for green lizards filched of breath;  
A palace-dome where runes are sung  
As Satan views his squadron's march,  
Flare twin mineral lights of blue  
That lure each legion foul of home.  
Swarm Trojans right and left with sword;  
Skirr gloppened worriers thro' the night;  
Roar puteals that toads eschew;  
Hiss brown snakes to each toothless gnome,  
Affrighted at the raving horde  
That crash thro' leprous filth and light—  
Disastrous sights of men gone mad!  
And pyramidal wall of rock  
Are battle-grounds for waging lust:  
A clashing lance spun vipers round  
The gyros rind where helots clad  
Each Thaumaturgist in a frock,  
The sign of which spake added trust  
Unto each ghou-king's able hound.  
Crafty Lords of militant mien,  
Led vanquished to the slaughter-pen;  
Thumb-screws and bastinados work  
Both Devils' pomp and Soldans' joy;  
And tantrums coarse in cesspools teem  
As women sob for dying men:  
The wracks that djinnee fear and shirk,  
Are Torture's friend—A Monster's toy!

[Pg 44]

The rayless styes that guard the bones  
Of fall'n kings and grizzled hordes,  
The mildewed screens that hold the skulls  
Of shambling spectres, wraiths, and souls,  
Now waft the spiréd, rasping tones  
Of risen helots, princes, lords;  
And all up-rising mists from hulls  
That stranded on these jejune shoals,  
Evaporate when amber lights  
Cleave phantom-screens and huddles black.  
(For this each pixie sings for cheer)  
Arcadian sights then hold sway:  
Each corporal gump loves the sights—  
The hidden past (an endless track)

[Pg 45]

Reviews each garneréd Greek and year,  
Each warrior bold and lassie gay.

Sanious lights beyond the height,  
Imbosked dysodile vaults of dwale  
As ulexite flare in the rocks  
Where implex aisles lead to gyte doom,  
Lure illaqueate Thought to flight,  
And at a Cyon, chained in stall,  
Whom mad Medeas shore of locks,  
Chase Fancy's wings where hazards bloom.  
Here herculean dwangs of gold,  
Clasped in talons of Circe's son,  
Pry portals of Teocalli as,  
When hyoids blaze like sea-linkt skies,  
Incondite imps seek grovels cold,  
Unfathomed haunts that scyle each sun,  
We see above the lees green grass  
Where pixies laugh with dancing eyes,—  
King Wonder's sight that holds each heart!  
Above the rind of Ursa's wake,  
Past shadows vague and sunless suns,  
Giant visions of the cancelléd past  
Rise from the void and play their part.

[Pg 46]

Demeter floats around a lake;  
Where waters with a naiad runs,  
Hector's shot by Archilles' dart;  
Where Orestes stabs his mother,  
Agamemnon sleeps on in cold;  
Aegisthus robs a queen of all;  
Andromache sobs tears of woe.  
And Clytaemenestra's lover,  
Like Menelous, is strong and bold:  
Aeneas on a burning wall  
Carries Anchises from the show.  
Then vulgar scenes stare at each soul,  
Hair-raising visions greet each eye;  
Priam's son is dragged round ancient Troy,  
Tied fast to a chariot's tail;  
Andromeda's doomed as Death's toll;  
Patroclus dies with a deep sigh.  
Phyrrhus sacks Troy with a devilish joy;  
Hecuba's nineteen sons now wail  
As Mycenae and Tiryns are burn'd:  
The Scaean Gate is storm'd by Peers!  
Archæans and Phrygians bold  
Have fought with Hatred's biting lust.  
Telemachus whom the Fates have spurn'd,  
Finds Ulysses in twenty years;  
Thessalian Soldans in gold,  
Like Dædalus, slept on in dust  
As Penlope winged for distant zones.  
Then Syran airs held each ear:  
Bright carvels glowed with rubic wine,  
Giant cyphers flared each Lordling's name  
Within the haunts of dungeoned domes,  
Where jazels peer the eyes of Fear,  
And owls with a scorpion dine—  
Twin Monarch's play the dice's game.

[Pg 47]

[Pg 48]

When beacons urticate each eye,  
Noctivagous ghouls haste to stroke  
Each goblin shank of hoary sage.  
Then pomp of gloom breaks into bloom,  
The Temple's arch cracks as we sigh,  
A clashing sound above that spoke  
Blind wrath unto each Wizard's rage,  
Revealed the chasm of stark Doom.  
Unto the peaks and gables black,  
Syrian airs like Orpheus  
Lull sequesteréd afrites to sleep,  
A witch smites her high biforous—  
A symbol of king Typhon's wrack!  
Where crystal lamps shine most glorious,  
Twin legions lie in cajons bleak,—

[Pg 49]

Tokens of Hell invidious!  
Then fades the burnished light on high;  
Magicians stave their heads in dust,  
The vermin feed on reeking bones,  
Each gnome sobs to a green-horn'd toad.  
And monarchs of this dungeoned sky  
Untomb each son in sacred trust  
As vipers sound their rasping tones,  
Farewell the ancient Greek's abode!  
Then spectres of the tower'd night,  
(Vultures of the sun, moon and stars)  
And bezzling parasites of dawn,  
Haunt ichnolite of mourners cold;  
Then purple sins bloom in the light  
As vipers drive queens in bright cars;  
Where dragons root the blistere'd lawn,  
There reigns a curdling monster bold.  
To scour these lanes of strobic gloom—  
Infernal doom by mongrels' wrought!  
To pace these aisles of whistling heat,  
Eternal signs of souls gone wrong!  
And when a skelp cleaves siffling doom,  
And vapours scyle a greenish ghaut,  
Rebellious vandals stamp their feet  
As rulling Cyons wield hell's prong.  
Then domes and walls sweat savage rage,  
Each gangrel gnome is toss'd by fear,  
The tombs provoke each inmate's keep  
To curse the horrid atmosphere,  
Where ghouls their battle-axes wage,  
Froth devils' pomp throughout the year;  
Where lizards o'er tath do creep,  
Bivouacs a horney-fisted seer.

[Pg 50]

To groves of wind-swept ulmus' bear,  
And siffling mists beyond a bell  
That hide veiled shadows of a peak  
Above the stationed domes of red,  
Auguries of a marching pair,—  
Twin demons of unconqueréd Hell!  
Spell visions that the soffins leak  
That felt the besom of the dead,  
Just as the Twilight's scarlet urn  
Is seen from heights unfathomed, strong.  
There runnels of green waters cold,  
Toss lepers from their murky breast;  
There venom-oils and tapers burn  
To light the way of souls gone wrong,—  
Blood-stainéd each idol's crown of gold  
Where battle-wrecks seek figent rest!

[Pg 51]

To the distant porphyry mount  
Where agate torches shine most bright,  
And syrinx's float music's charm  
O'er the jargling herds of tombed,  
A joggling javel begins to count,  
With bleary eyes of grayish light,  
The rubies on each idol's arm,  
And whisper words unto the tombed.  
Now to a churning gyre's pool  
We haste to see a weird show,  
Where Lordly Helms in vials squirm,  
Each mongrel scoundrel's olpe of wine!  
A Morgan gambles with a ghoul,  
A Belmont writhes with sizzling woe,  
A Rockefeller leads each worm,  
Another's known as T. F. Ryan.  
The browless whelp of oily fame  
Is made to dig the burning soil,  
The sheckles of a Pierpont king,  
Secures no prestige in this Inn.  
The gambling ghost whose middle name  
Is "Fortune", spins within the swirl  
Of waters cold and oceans' ring,  
Condemned, forsaken for his sin.

[Pg 52]

On earth they plunder'd, robbed and stole  
From month to month and year to year;  
There Franchise-stealers cracked with leers  
As Plebeians stung, groaned with might.  
Now one and all damn'd on this shoal  
Yuck addling brains and shriek with fear,  
Now all shrink at Hell's laughing seers  
As Remorse storms the ugly night.  
Here Pat McCarrens filch no vote,  
A Grady eats no mellow pea,  
A Murphy owns no City Hall,  
No Jeromes skew at dices' song.

[Pg 53]

On Vellum gray their sins are wrote  
To murmurs of each sullen lee,  
Racked with the wand of death and pall,  
They blast their heads as souls gone wrong.  
No presidential timber's found  
Within these caverns, pools or dung;  
No two-faced B's or bloated T's,  
Lie to laymen, vassals, hordes.  
Here politicians hear the sound  
Of ballots that their hearts have wrung,  
Of burning pyres and blister'd lees  
That scorch these one-time kings and lords.

Here Conventions hold our eyes  
As Dragons smite a gravel dome.  
The kings of Finance, skinn'd and shorn,  
Are list'ners in these halls of gloom.  
Their deeds are read, they heave giant sighs,  
Thumb-screws and wracks rake skin and bone,  
In cajons bleak, each corpse forlorn,  
Is sunk as trophies of king Doom.

[Pg 54]

No Depews sell their patron's love,  
No faffling Platts guard treasures strong,  
No Parkers, Roots,—The crafty things!  
Betray a country's hope and trust.  
No palm is brought them by a dove,  
No minions shant their praise in song,  
The poisoned zimbs add to the stings  
Of conscience lost and raging lust.  
Each one-time king of earthly fold  
Is skinn'd alive then cooked in oil;  
Some frazzled Astor dames and fools  
Now eat their claws and chew a bone.

A monarch known as Leopold,  
Writhes in a cavern's squeezing coil;  
Here man-born helms are but the tools  
Of Satan and each prowling gnome.  
Their toes are screwed and eyes are bored,  
Their ears are shorn and lips are split,  
Each head is cracked, all tongues are cut,  
By vipers red and bloody ghouls.  
Affrighted as the dames are gored,  
Each Sybarite his teeth doth grit,  
The huddled pirates in a hut,  
Shriek help unto the roaring pools.

[Pg 55]

And moaning airs their sorrows tell  
That some unfathomed force hath bred.  
Night-hawks rasp sins of women, men,  
Who sold their honour, soul and name.  
And tower'd screeches that pierce giant hell  
Are treasure-houses for the dead:  
Each rich man writhes within a den,  
Society dames proclaim their shame.  
And offal, shard and putrid dung,  
Is by affluent daughters born.

When in the ribboned mists above  
A beacon flares and torches burn,  
A Soldan from green earth is hung;  
His heartless queen is cursed, forsworn,  
Their souls house neither hope nor love  
Within Damnation's burning urn.  
Repress'd with hate and unspent rage  
As charnel howls clash in each hall,  
Each gyving hydra rends the air

[Pg 56]

With curses, hawks as rambling souls,  
Lured by a grizzled warrior sage,  
Storm moats before each bristling wall  
And die as imps are bade to swear—  
Infernal trophies of these shoals!  
Immingled dreams their senses storm  
As Westward shadows cloak each lee;  
Where censers blaze they drag their limbs,  
These cursed, forsaken whelps of hell!  
Their ghastly sins on vellum's sworn,  
Attested, sealed, they bend each knee!  
Where devils rant blood-curdling hymns,  
A raving wench drowns in a well.  
Unto the coals of feveréd pyres  
That glare like carcants red and white;  
And glowing rubies in the dust  
That lure each man-born skink and whelp,  
The spastic cries and moaning sighs  
Attest to Typhon's weird dight,—  
And Satan's ichor of green lust,  
Provokes the lashing heat and skelp.

[Pg 57]

Within the cathedral vaults of gloom,  
The gorgeous pomp of the flayed,  
In banded gold and marble flesh,  
Speak of auguries to the damn'd,  
Till, when censers' lights flare and bloom,  
And shapes of men are laid arrayed  
In gomes of steel, we tread the mesh  
And grandeur of a conjured stand,  
Where coral wreathes each hussy's brow,  
Whose broken arms portray hell's lust,  
Of whistling winzes, syrt and domes  
That gleaming broths in anger wrought,  
'Mid hiss of snakes and oils. So now,  
When plunderéd tombs betray their trust,  
And vandals screech at roving gnomes,  
All raise a voice and curse each ghaut.

[Pg 58]

Beyond the ring and roll of hell—  
And spiral lofts of quartz and gold—  
We skirr upon the crutch of haste  
And cleave the abyss, cold and bleak.  
There jejune fossils lie to tell  
Of pleiocene days' garneréd fold;  
Gray bones that pierce this weird waste  
Lie mounted on a torrid peak;  
Principalities of the past,  
Lie scatter'd in the mildewed dust;  
Serai's built in ages gone,  
Now crumble at a sound, a voice.  
And Boulders that the Djinnee cast  
As Vengeance swirl'd the heated dust,  
Now rock as devils rasp a son,  
And vampyres dance round and round.  
And where a dim, unstudded dome  
Leak odours strong and palsied light—  
Twins of the Gloom! as some mad soul  
Assails Typhon's battling walls,  
A glowing fire of this home  
Of deadly dews and poisoned night,  
Bathes monstrous this untower'd shoal.  
Convulsed with fear as aisles and halls  
Roar like giant cauldrons mad for gore,  
Icarian gumps and devils bold,  
Assault each marshalléd mount and scree.  
Then spectacles greet us again  
Upon this shadowed, foreign shore:  
A pond'rous dwang of virgin gold,  
Is filched from altars that we see,  
Just as the tomb-sweats pour like rain.  
And distant ghauts where jazels burn,—  
(A burning tomb where hissing oils  
Drip on a flayed and bottled wench  
That some abhorrent spawn of death

[Pg 59]



Filched from the wrack of Terror's urn  
As stagnant breath unwinds its coils)  
Spout uncoped shard unto a bench  
Where sights of men-wrecks gasp for breath,  
Whilst quickly from a bowelless whelp  
Drop ghastly stones of scarlet hue  
That brazen imps hurl thro' the air  
At sobbing wraiths and furrowed souls,  
Wrought by a fiend and conjured skelp  
As men and women hold a pew  
Within a turgid, acrid lair,—  
Infernal aisles of yawning shoals!

[Pg 60]

T'ward cyphers bright and terrible,  
Where Doom sits poised as Satan yawns,—  
Each Vulture's home and arid shoal!  
We hurl a curse and damn the hordes  
That call each monster horrible.  
Then craftily he moves his pawns  
(Whenas a moan escapes each soul)  
As bleary sons of noble lords  
Sway twin censers' fumes in silence,  
Until in myrtle groves we see  
A blazing arch where agate eyes  
Doth peer malignly from a crypt  
Thro' turbid phials of violence,—  
A scene of impish sorcery!  
Where, in furbished chambers there lies—  
As vipers write on evil script  
The ghastly deeds that sinners wrought—  
A glow-worm's fagot that arrays  
Dim shapes of souls of men that were.  
And cyphers nights of doomes to be,  
Till flaring pyres and yon red ghaut—  
So monstrous bright that some one prays—  
And Vizey's carvel starts to stir,  
Shape abhorrent signs on each lee.

[Pg 61]

Into the dusky coals we peer,  
And musing at the luring flames,  
We watch each isle of crystal green.  
Anear the billows swirl with rage,  
'Mid lashing waves that cope king Fear  
To strands and sands where elfin games  
Make rich each midnight's fleecy dream  
That some Mad wand'ring, goblin sage,  
Provoked from coffers of each brain,  
Gleam in each tossing breast of foam,  
Or shines from purple decks and domes  
A ruddy carcant huge and large;  
Or, when sea-linkt clouds, garbed in rain,  
And behemoths sink to briny home,  
A star that shines from foreign zones  
Guide carvels old and Satan's barge  
O'er blue profounds of the deep,  
And gladden souls of men; yet, stunned,  
Tho' trembling, to a roaring mouth,  
A horn'd magician locked in death,  
On whom two hectic harlots peep,  
Sinks in abyssal depths unsummed,  
Whilst him he fought hastes to the South,—  
A hoary fiend of rasping breath!

[Pg 62]

And now we watch a maiden flee,  
Past seas and ice-mounts oriflammed  
With crystal diamonds red and bright,  
Where Persephonê hath breathed a jem,  
And frozen jazels that we see,  
Alife with lusts of curst and damn'd,  
Tho' windblown, thro' the moonless night,  
She wanders with her anadem  
On golden hair; nor doth she haste  
When scarlet eyes peer thro' the snow,  
But cavernéd mouths of grottoes black,  
And storm-swept flight of dragons bold,

[Pg 63]

She passes as she treads the waste,  
Off to the haunts of ghoully show,  
Where fires writhe and whispers track  
Her wake unto the peaks of cold,  
Above whose tower'd dome she sees  
The tombs of father, mother, all;  
Ay, now weeps she as the head-stones  
Letter large, her unburied kin.  
Now with her trembling arms and knees,  
And back against the slimmy wall,  
She vents her tears and choking moans,  
A daughter cursed within this Inn.

[Pg 64]

And witches long for ease, so,  
Erelong they peer at waters green  
That pour in forges dank and cold,  
Whence glare the eyes of Hell in lust  
As Cyclops stem the pyre's glow,  
'Mid haunts of sin and purple sheen  
Of shales and husks of monsters told  
As vultures to both scale and dust.  
Then wing they for the western strands  
Of boweréd vales and lulling dells,  
Where silence holds the winds at bay,  
And myrtles stir the sylvan air.

There tow'rs and the russet sands  
Make fine the tunes of ringing bells  
That echo to the skies of gray,  
Where phosphorescent lanterns flare.  
And twilights of the lofty aisles,  
Thro' silver mists and streaks of blood,  
Crucifixion looms cold and white;

[Pg 65]

Oaths of prurient blasphemy  
Echo to the sequesteréd isles;  
An ivory pyx that rides the flood  
On which fantasms spin their light,  
Curse each soul's eternal enemy.  
Within a pool where writhing coils  
Shape cyphers bold and gorey thought,—  
Two shadowed sklayres of Doom and Set!  
The foam-dreams of the newly dead  
Ascend. To hazards that the oils  
Eschewed, haste dryades that were taught  
To dance. And, whilst all souls forget  
The chasms deep and oriflammed,  
The spastic lights of a green room,  
Dim torches show the jeweled tombs  
Wherein are hid the studded crowns  
Of Eastern queens; or, when high-bred  
Dames pick from Death's unbroken womb  
The coral wreaths and poppy blooms,  
Two priestesses in scarlet gowns  
Curse loudly as the royal dead  
Are strewn with palmy leaves and dyes.  
And crimsons adders on the hulls,  
Search for toadstools smeared with blood.  
And livid lamps where vipers spoon,  
As some bad harlot shrieks and cries  
Her Nature's sins unto three skulls,  
A shameless gnome bathes in hell's flood  
The thighs he filched from a gray tomb.

[Pg 66]

Drawn by the whispers from the wind,  
'Mid glories of the hollowed night,  
To storm-swept vales and mounts we haste,  
And, in monastic halls we see,  
Above a greenish gyros rind,  
The flick'ring flames of a light,  
Beneath whose subtle, shadowed waste  
Squat men and women that would flee  
The ghastly words from Vellum told,  
Who pluck their eyes and pull their hair,—  
Beneath their feet there writhes a worm!  
As bludgeons smite a leering soul.  
And when a wench that Satan sold  
To some old seer, whose head is bare,

[Pg 67]

And oily snakes in cauldrons squirm,  
All blast the sight and curse this shoal,—  
Infernal land of Sin and Doom!  
Eternal moans and sighs we hear;  
A swarthy demon laughs with glee.  
Then, thickly from a ghastly hole  
The turbid dyes of blood doth bloom  
From minxes bold, crouched with giant fear,  
Provoke a sage who could not see,  
With feelings for her impeached soul.

Low arches of a charnel house,  
Above whose dome two demons sit,  
That guard the lamps of fateful red,  
Veiled whispers from a maiden's soul  
Cleave skyward until they arouse  
A savage hound of hell with script  
That holds her body's deeds. A-bed,  
He peers thro' shades unto her shoal,  
Then at his tome where sins are wrote  
Of wives that sold their names in lust,  
Or men that worshipped naught but gold.  
And, when stillness holds troubled sway,  
A baneful imp that Conscience smote,  
Rasps names of those bowed in the dust:  
And, when thus their sins are foretold,  
As kinsmen strike their beasts and pray,  
A livid gasp permeates the air,  
A curdling curse assails the night.  
And squats, whose scarlet venom crawls  
To lantern's-glow that tell the guilt  
Of battling demons as they swear,  
Malignly dumb below each light  
That scyle the bloody walls and halls,  
The life-ebb from a wench is spilt.  
The phosphorescent fungus-lights  
Are traitors' lamps that sorrows hide;  
The foam-sprayed beaches that we see,  
Are treasure-houses for the damn'd.  
From year to year infernal nights  
Rasp shoals a thousand furlongs wide;  
In ev'ry zone, each distant lee,  
Holds ghastly sights of burning sand.  
The headlands that we reach by day,  
About whose shore the dragons roam;  
And mildewed vaults of gathered bone,  
Where eyeless skulls and ape-shanks lie  
As moaning winds reel to and sway  
From gorey pools and tower'd dome,  
A goggling wraith and shambling gnome  
Doth forage for each fleeing sigh.

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Now Sorrow that the Dooms crown'd King,  
Flees from the mouth of pools inflame,  
Whilst Lords in robes of scarlet hue,  
Add to the damn'd, malignant show;  
Pellicles that all eyes did sting  
In Vengeance's law that none could tame,  
Flees whence two lights of dreaming blue  
Cleave dome-thrown shadows dress'd in woe.

A Thaumaturgist, cursed and damn'd,  
Raps skulls from which a venom pours,  
And shakes his fists where opals burn,  
Whence figgum that his hands control  
Is charged with life; and on the sand  
Two witches sate their thirst in gores,  
Flit Fancy's wings unto a urn,  
(Within whose tomb there writhes a soul)  
And with Courage that Dawn hath bred  
In rivers, to whispers of the night,  
As wracks are dyed a crimson red,  
Feasts upon Doom's abhorrent shape,  
That fires bright, toss to each bed,  
And flees to realms where shadows light;

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Whilst Thought, in horror of the dead,  
Wings in mourning veils, dark as crepe,  
And feasts on afterglow of Trust,  
On cauldrons tossed to crafty Death  
That froths dank pomp and guidons bright,  
Unto a height, where falt'ring eyes,  
Betrayed by crystals numb in dust,  
Gasps at the sight with startled breath  
As vapours green, war with the light,  
Faint as the sunset's golden dyes.  
All mounts of bone are tombs of weal,  
Each scree, a temple of king Doom;  
And runnels that the suns do shun,  
Are pools where offal reeks most strong  
And thro' the air giant wasps do reel;  
On barriers bleak, reptiles soom;  
A Vulture that no shard can stun  
Gawks at the multitudes gone wrong.

[Pg 71]

Where waters with the venom crawls  
To oriels, where banners float  
Beside a dome-thrown surf of blood  
T'ward letters large, that Hell hath wrought,  
Worm-like vapours skirr thro' the halls  
And reach a distant, lurid moat,  
Where sighs and groans upon a flood  
Ascend to heights of a grey ghaut—  
Satellites to Destiny's crypt!  
And Vespers that the Twilight brought—  
More dooms that prayers nor sighs can break—  
Leer at each thought to Fancy's flight;  
And to the dais whereunder sit  
A demon-quire that Circe taught,  
Songs that echo to the isles in lake  
And valley deep, ravage the night  
Until Idols pall at the scene.  
And stationed Mounts toward the West  
Whose bones portray a ghastly lust;  
And skulls that glare at the soulless night,  
Point, weeping, where the foam-waves dream:  
All battle-wrecks and imps haste forth  
Unto the phosphorescent dust  
And pyramidal shoals of light.

[Pg 72]

The poisons that the geysers spit  
To apes, where Sin in splendor reigns;  
And cavern'd shapes that shadows hide  
Behind tapers, where snarling Doom  
Glares at Set's tomb, where devils sit,  
Make vague signs to the weird flames,  
Flit spastic breath to regions wide  
And shroud each shrunken soul with gloom.  
Where glozing parasites hold sway,  
Seck rivers dry reveal the bones  
Of ages that the Cyclops slew:  
Onyx thrones that the Titans storm'd  
Lie in obfuscating decay;  
Eyeless skulls that abhorrent gnomes  
Wield in hands that reek with the dew  
That solemn Death in tombs hath worm'd,  
Stare at the scene as willows sigh:  
And tapers of the Mount's crown'd witch  
(Whenas each carcant fades from view)  
Seek shadows that the tombs have cast  
Upon the conjured, wind blown sky,  
Where Syrian altar-lamps make rich  
The palace-domes whereon the dew  
Sits like a star and beams upon the vast,  
Phantasmagoric glory of Death,  
Of godly helms housed in a crypt.  
And where a livid beacon flares—  
(A rock that some giant storm hath split)  
In mourning robes and rasping breath,  
Before a grave where devils sit,  
A Queen at whom a lizard stares,

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[Pg 74]

Sobs her grief and woe that tears writ  
Deep into the phorphyry mount:  
This, then, is Death's home, vale and Tomb!  
Where Lancers, made equal with the dust  
When revolt storm'd each kingdom's fold,  
And clashing wars spun Hecate round  
The pungent halls of spastic Doom;  
When in each Nation fought king Lust  
As siffling vapours gleamed like gold,  
Ten legions whom the gods forsook  
Wrought havoc on this Cauldron's shore:  
Then Dragon-guidons led the march  
As battle-axes smote vile Lords;  
Stout hears that with king Vengeance shook,  
Fought with valour's shield for more gore;  
Assaults that rasped each Temple's arch,  
Spake conquest o'er shambling hordes.

[Pg 75]

This tale on ghastly Vellum's writ,  
More sypher'd woes the walls proclaim;  
Where goblins fondle crumbling bones,  
There lies a death-thrown monster cold.  
Perturbéd at writings on yon script  
As moaning airs gaunt Sorrows name,  
Each ape attests in faffling tones—  
Flight to the Dragons' haunted fold.  
Affrighted at this fearful gaze  
As coals blaze like twinkling jewels,  
Night-hawks that croak at bat-faced owls  
Gledge at each gnome that digged a bone  
From some bleak pool, and pierce the haze  
Where censers blaze. Unconqueréd ghouls  
Who laugh and leer at demon howls,  
Make signs unto the hell-lashed foam—  
Japes that the damn'd fear in each knell!

Where jargling javels stab a toad,  
And mutter swift, as vipers swear;  
And spectres that the cauldrons wrought,  
Glare at the storm-swept sins that tell  
Of monsters that the night-winds rode  
When bloody plumes stole to a lair  
Beyond the confines of a ghaut.  
And spacious halls where vagrants lie—  
Vandals to the Dawn, Night and Dusk!  
And vulpine labyrinths of hell  
Where pirates of a star are thron'd  
As dews cloak bones that pierce the sky,  
Wowed witches with a gorce's lust  
When vales list to a clanging bell  
That some encharnel'd hybrid domed,  
Sweats cesspools with the pall of fear,  
Shrill sounds permeate the barren air,  
Each shatter'd light before a well,  
Ends its flame in short, spastic gasps.  
And stars that burn but once a year,  
(Veinéd Aureoles to altars where,  
When sins are told unto each knell  
As chanting runes are hushed with clasps  
Of winds provoked by black-set night,  
Peer at the caravans in prayer;  
A dirge is sung by magicians;  
Each Idol squints eyes at the show,  
Whilst goblins curse the eerie sight.  
And Betelguese, an evil lair  
With infernal, warring legions,  
Careens as stars shed tears of woe.

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[Pg 77]

Arcadia, its pleasing name,  
An Eden where the damn'd drink wine,  
Where rich fêtes greet each varlet's eye,  
Each gyving hound whom Fates have doomed:  
Each scyphus veils a burning flame;  
A blood-stone from each dome doth shine  
On poisons that in goblets lie,

Bred by sorcerers, cursed and tombed.  
Then Terrors, Horrors, reign supreme!  
Each vial squat before the spread,  
Leer at toads in goblets crossed,  
Froth skinks within each feaster's glass,  
Wine changed to blood, then acrid green.  
A drunken villain who was bled  
As drink his convulsed entrails tossed,  
Writhes with the cramps upon the grass  
And glares at the face of his god,  
Whose wrinkled skin, in ghastly wrath,  
Provoked at this son in revolt,  
Rants his spleen to the slabs of Doom,  
From whence gyte monsters with a rod,  
That oft gave imps a bloody bath,  
Hythe, and before their master halt;  
And, then came unhung, battling gloom!  
The dome cracked like a clashing star,  
All lights were muffled in a shroud,  
Wild winds that cought us in their fold,  
Dashed wrecks unto a reeking zone.  
In Thralldom's grasp we waged giant war,  
The storms rasped at each cursing crowd,  
From regions far there sprung a cold  
That froze each hoodlum stuck in loam.  
There, garbed in the wastes of a moat,  
Gangrel witches scan the slime to curse  
Beneath a dome and shatter'd light,  
A sign that all are lost and doomed.  
Toward jagged heights black oaths float,  
To skies of jasper light, adverse  
To Doom's rich fold, prayers reach thro' night  
That some malignant monster tombed  
In phantom-blankets stark and bold.  
All mountain-chasms growl and roar;  
Each ocean froths black waves of lust;  
King Thunder rasps the trembling night;  
Giant lightnings split their fevered hold;  
Encharneled guilt hastes to this shore  
As hydras squirm along the dust,  
Affrighted at this Cauldron's sight.

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[Pg 79]

For we are unsubstantial wrecks  
Beyond the pale of scale and fin;  
Adventurers tossed by king Time  
In region 'neath supernal skies.  
To dungeoned knells where venom specks  
The robes of priestesses with sin,  
And prowling apes get drunk with wine,  
We turn each thought to coral eyes  
That seas have blurred with confined night,  
And whisper deeds wrought in silence.  
A quiver that the tomb-sweat bore  
When walls were split with Typhon's ire;  
And monstrous shapes that carved the light  
As dragon-worms brought pestilence  
To souls who grovel on this shore,  
Proclaim each gyving djinnee sire.  
And dryades whom the mists have struck  
With ague—A Sceptre of Despair!  
(Sklayres to the night, and suns unstunned)  
Dank dulse, where templed vaults of man,  
Coarse-grained, who gambled with king Luck,  
'Mid pulse of life below the air,  
Shake at the throb of this unsummed  
Sphere, where haunted thoughts and dreams scan  
Athward at a untower'd home,  
Where vitals that the glow-worm lit—  
Friends to the Doom! as sorrowed soul,  
Repress'd with rage, knelt down and prayed,  
Rise from the hollowed void a moan  
As sins upon papyrus, writ  
In vyper's blood—Jems in this shoal!  
Confess'd by men whom friends have flayed,  
Teem in the wind-swept, shatter'd strands—

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Blind batter'd keels that know no rest  
'Mid surge of moans that tombs have spilt.  
Upon the air that Doom hath wrung,  
Beyond the fields where numberless hands  
Point to the headland of the West,  
Lights and vague shadows spell no guilt  
Unto the wraiths whom Torpor stung.  
And all night-thoughts in this strange sphere,  
Tred in the skirts of waters cold,  
Of hell-winds that the beaches swirl  
Dome-high within this shrunken realm;  
And crested billows toss giant Fear  
Unto each culprit's hidden fold:  
The studded roof where flares a pearl,  
The charnel vapours o'erwhelm.

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In caverns where gyte jinnee lee—  
Noctivagous lepers in the gloom—  
Unhollowed regions wrapped in light  
Where groans are drowned by revels coarse,  
(Seen by a gump throughout the year  
Above the strife where horrors soom)  
Lurk crafty gnomes who with the night  
Rant oaths in voices cracked and hoarse:  
Blood-thirsty jinn in essling caves,  
Where rubic dyes tinge Torture's dome,  
And vypers' whispers pierce the night  
As ghouls—whose baneful eyes conspire  
With the surge of hell's roaring waves—  
Rear mounts of bone—Dame Sorrow's home!  
As charnel scarn parades in light—  
Unfathomed crafts rayed in wowed attire.  
And dusky mists peer at the show,  
Obtest the gloom to further deeds  
Of haste, to Horror's added might;  
Tho' twilight-witches spill their gloom,  
(Betelguese's priestesses of woe)  
Abhorrent gawks lure in the reeds  
Where shatter'd lights wing sudden flight,  
'Mid spun-waves kiss'd by poppy bloom.

[Pg 83]

Dank dulse, and rushing waters cold;  
Eternal signs of shadowed night  
Beyond the zephyr-haunted space  
Of adequate lees 'neath the sky:  
Unfathomed haunts of stark souls bold  
That squat on waves of darkest dight,  
Malignly mute as foam-waves race  
To pyres where men in torture lie.  
When thrones are levelled to the dust,  
And glories fade in cauldrons tossed,  
'Mid waters vaster than the night  
In scarlet tombs that rasp grim Death,  
Supernal selves, loosed from king Lust  
As Dissolution bulwarks crossed,  
Conviction of an undreamt might  
Assail each mongrel afrite's breath.  
Hushed gasps permeate the solemn air  
As coral Twilight flaunts its sheen,  
And vapours wreath phantastic forms  
Till vaulted domes glow like the noon.  
Vague dreams plague souls beyond repair,  
Phantoms, black demons call their queen,  
Skinks and owls whom no conscience storms  
Make faces at the leprous moon.  
And bleak dungeons dank with odours  
Strong, within each encrusted gyre,  
'Mid treasure-vaults digged by gray Age,  
Affronting witches incense burn;  
And howling ghouls gape thro' vapours,  
Two siffling vampyres dance on fire,  
Each mottled sage a conqueréd page  
To him whose hate no Doom can turn,  
No bat-faced gnome can stem the blaze:  
Hence harlots, ghastly with giant sin,

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Chant runes to him in strobic gloom  
As figgum's plied before his throne.  
Malignly mute, he peers thro' haze;  
Infernal pæons shake each Inn,  
Blue lights 'twixt opals burn and bloom  
In deep-hued haunts of Typhon's home.

[Pg 85]

In vain we seek an isle of peace  
Beyond the pale of siffling Doom!  
'Mid stillness vaster than the tomb,  
Made equal with the ghouls who lurk  
On battlements where witches ease  
Their minds as rubic censers fume,  
A Fiend bubbles in ruddy bloom  
As turgid dyes the night-dwales shirk.  
No sunsets crimson this stained sea,  
No Ev'ntides her plume unfolds;  
An opaque light that Silence wrought.  
Careens thro' space in quest of toll.  
Then demons storm each sea and lee,  
Abhorrent sights each Cauldron holds,  
Dim shapes flit to the distant ghaut  
Where Doom sits poised—Each monster's goal!  
Erelong the air shakes with a roar—  
Forebodings of souls on Death's dome!  
Bright cyphers spell the new-damnéd name  
In letters 'gainst a leprous home:  
Oaths peel like the hammer of Thor—  
The screaming thing is flayed to bone!  
Its sins—an outraged Body's shame—  
Laid bare as whipcords dye the foam,  
Whereon nepheloid imps and night,  
Soom on with tidings of a moan,  
Of dews, and whisper'd groans and sighs.  
And, as vague forms writhe in despair,  
A native in phantastic dight  
Stills Torture's hold in weazened tone,  
Black incense lifts its wand and flies  
To haunts where mattoids rave and swear.

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Where figent gawks sken at a gnome,  
Decked in byssin and beads of gold;  
And glozing jinn on a scree's height,  
That leer as geysers boil and flow,  
Feazing imps on serai's dome,  
Drink from olpes icy philters cold,  
Whilst scarn assails the morning light—  
And gumps haste to the Dawn's first show.  
Then pyres don mystic sklayres agleam,  
A faffling fool leads gawks thro' hall  
Where fays, in stones of ancient art,  
Dance as Scorpions shake with glee:  
Infernal pomps spread tawny sheen,  
Strange figgum, amid unholy pall,  
Pierce Sorrows with its poisoned dart  
Whence horrors shake their limbs and flee.  
And scenes, profound in Aspect's hue,  
Play havoc with eyes of each soul:  
Crimson dales (vague tho' they be)  
And swards rise from the lurid moat;  
Knees bend in Adoration's pew,  
Blithe songs of cheer, far and near, roll  
Thro' the halls to ebony sea,  
Above whose breast twin whispers float—  
Tremendous signs of dooms to be!  
And, ere falt'ring noon wings itself  
To shadow peaks and portals bright  
That scyle veiled auguries of Hell,  
An agate light arrays this sea,  
Each glabrous fay sports with an elf,  
A one-eyed owl blinks at the light,  
A green-horned toad croaks from a well.  
Then pageantries fade in the gloom:  
'Mid Cyclopean storms unstunned  
Dank treasure-houses spill their quest

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And march with thunder from far West;  
Whilst lightning flashes skirr the noon,  
Giant moans ascend from shoals unsunned,  
The turf, Tartarus' coals of rest—  
Helots to the haunts of Sin's crest—  
Whereon jimp jinn ride to hell's mouth,  
The silence stir with oaths of might;  
Vile dragons roar at a zimb's sting;  
A swarthy gump leers at the damn'd:  
All soom to mountains of the South  
Where sultry winds war with the light,  
And zanies' voices rise to sing,  
Hosannah to the idol's stand,  
Where azure-censers' fumes enhance  
The pomps, adverse to Sorrow's home.  
Figent hydras squat on each throne,  
Mute souls peer at the altar's flame  
As phantom images do dance  
In honour of this Hybrid's zone,  
Bred in this gorge by some strange gnome,  
Sib to him who plays Satan's game.

[Pg 89]

A Cesspool vext with leprous stench  
And oils—A sign that spells a curse!  
Visioned with Temples' diamonds bright  
In domes as guide to those whose cry  
Of fear, sprung from a wench's bench,  
Lure all to this strange shore, adverse  
To moonlit skies. By the ghaut's light,  
(Ten-thousand furlongs wide and high)  
The gaud, spun from sorcerers' art,  
Reveals its part unto each soul—  
Imperishable signs of groans  
That time nor cyclones can eschew.  
No lulling lanes point to a mart,  
No tidings good their billows roll;  
In fretful haunts where Sorrow moans,  
Swarm souls in Penance's rasping pew:  
Disastrous sights of Torture's dome!  
Red-embered coals that burn their feet!  
And reeking pools, vile with odours,  
Make monstrous this blood-crimson vale.  
Where demon-lovers chew a bone  
As men and women choak in heat,  
And blood-veined sights writhe in vapours—  
Eternal shadows in each gale!

[Pg 90]

To groves where stiliness sat supreme,  
Flee seers in quest of lagging rest;  
To regions where giant echos roar,  
Haste begotten sons in this lair:  
There man-born wrecks lie down and dream  
Of sea-winds that foam-billows bless'd,  
Of auric realms where censers pour  
Violaceous fumes thro' the air.  
And in the deep-hued depths of gore,  
(Blind bowels in Betelguese's hold)  
Gyte vandals that a Dragon bore  
Sleep with one eye as Midnight rules  
These sons of Circe whom pyres adore;  
Their thoughts vie with the luring fold,  
Each sleepless orb glares like a boar—  
Infernal hounds of shambling ghouls!  
Porphyry mounts where crystals glare—  
Twin carcants strung on idols' thighs  
Whereon stones, blaze like fire bright,  
And moonstones add their silver sheen,  
A Circean draught, boiled in the air,  
Is poured on cippus where Set lies;  
Where vanquished Soldans sleep each night,  
A greenish fungus-torch doth gleam.  
Giant battles have been fought in hell,  
Principalities rot in dust,  
The tombs of kings speak of the past  
When Incubi reigned with a rod.

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Unnumberéd bones adorn each dell—  
Where Rulers lie there stands a bust;  
Blood-stainéd the hands of him whose task  
Is blasting varlets like a god.  
And when some spirit stalks thro' space  
In quest of vaults—Temporal lees!  
Treads in the grandeur of dank hell,  
A batter'd shape that shakes its frame,  
Spacious regions Courage chase,  
Winds drive it to Misery's seas,  
Laughs ascend from sequesteréd well,  
Thro' shadows vague it hears its shame.  
And tomb-thrown groans and sighs we hear—  
Tho' midnight's near and afrite's sleep:  
An Owl, perturbéd at some strange sound,  
Scares bats in space and wings for domes.  
All signs of woe hath flown with fear,  
No maidens heave their breasts and weep,  
All wrecks of Flesh lie on the ground,  
Removed from shoals where Terror moans.  
On skulls that some in Death hath left,  
Croak toads to lizards in a well;  
In cajons that the Ancient's digged,  
Swim snakes that hiss at burning oils:  
And bats and owls that offal cleft,  
Proclaim their burdens to a dell,  
Whilst crafts that some strange witch hath rigged,  
Bring slaves unto this Cesspool's coils.

[Pg 93]

When carcants gleam like scarlet foam,  
And hiss of pyres froth at each light  
In dongas vext as jazels flare  
From splinter'd tombs of Kings in dust,  
A stragglng mist that cleft Hell's dome,  
Peers at the gloom and strobic sight  
Of charnel shard as vipers blare  
Wrathfully at each Monarch's bust.  
And doleful dirges rake the gloom,  
A whisper'd sin sobs at the wrecks;  
Graven imps clasp papyrus old  
And rant each Body's deeds of shame.  
Come from a dank and sunken womb  
All stranded ghouls on keels and decks  
Where Cyclops fought as Vellum told  
In cyphers bright, sprung from each flame,  
Make hideous eyes at the night.  
And terrors that Tartarus bred  
Assail each kingdom treblefold:  
A gangrel clan that someone flayed,  
Skirr thro' the dungeoned halls in flight  
And seek the caverns of the dead.  
Where tapers gleam like virgin gold  
The tombs of dead queens are arrayed:  
There, too, a witch unfurls her cowl  
And scans the shambling hordes to curse,  
And with the light that cyclones split,  
She juggles secrets of her lust,  
And hurls her voice at Néphele's owl,  
Past portals dark, where harlots nurse  
Their skinless limbs that Torture bit,  
And stamps her feet into the dust  
As, into olpes she pours a tear:  
And, musing at the clouds of gloom,  
She wrinkles face and lifts her hands  
To mutter words unto the night.  
Whereon a ghou-king hath writ Fear,  
And changes gloom to purple bloom,  
The shoals to opal-sanded strands  
That reach, past wrecks to crystal light,  
Where mossy vales with poppies bloom,  
And hastes her flight from Terror's urn,  
To onyx seas where agates glow,  
And feats her eyes on woes of hell,  
Upon the foam-dreams of king Doom,  
Where monsters in red cauldrons burn,

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[Pg 95]

'Mid shrieks that from their vitals flow  
With airs that rasp each bone-strewn dell.  
And sea-linkt skies of charnel black—  
A savage dome! streaked scarlet red,  
Where maids for demon lovers mourn;  
And caskets spew a dusky foam  
That quench the thirst of yon lone wrack  
That holds the sultry, naked dead,  
Who caught the eyes of waves forlorn,  
Now bathed in blood in Hecate's home.

[Pg 96]

There garnet wrought and purple lights  
Shine thro' poisoned vials of age  
On churning pomps of casements old,  
Where, when lofty aisles and halls  
Ring rich with tenor runes in nights  
Made solemn by a hoary sage  
With darkling eyes that gleam like gold,  
A prowling vandal storms the walls,  
Nursed with dank venom broths and oils.  
A blood-shot minx hunts for a man;  
In stys and broken pyxs she peers  
For him who ruined her honour, soul;  
A harlot doomed in clinging coils  
That now her longings curse and damn,  
Squats on a skull and pulls her ears:  
Or, just when she finds her life-goal,—  
A cow'ring cur hid from the sight  
Beneath a putrid mount of bone,  
And tombs grow dank as rising sun  
Makes red each dragon in the West,  
She splits his heart and rasps with might,  
A curse that rides the surging foam,  
A message that this dastard son  
Dies longing for a fatal quest—  
Surcease of soul and conscience lost!  
Then rants she sins unto each tomb  
That sweat the lusts of those in dust,  
And scarlet foam and hiss of oils  
That her black deed to domes hath tossed,  
Break into writhing life and bloom  
As iron crowns and ceptres rust  
Of fall'n monarchs crossed in coils.  
Anear, two carcants glare like gold;  
Afar, a ruby's light of red  
Straggles thro' the pellicled mist,  
And to its vinewed dell haste I,  
To catch the fleeting whispers told  
To marble-lamps and head-stones, said,  
By demon-husbands as I list,  
To hold each mongrel harlot's sigh.  
There, then, in tatter'd rags and hair,  
Coarse-grained of features once so fine,  
She spews her 'evil wrath and rage  
Into the wriggling hands and face  
Of him who lifts his voice to swear  
A curse that stirs the air, whose time  
(Tho' to king Satan speeds a page)  
Hath come as Vengeance wins the race.  
When crimson skies and stellor eyes  
Swathed palace domes and turrets strong,  
Her lips kiss'd mine, and mine did hers,  
Ere evil smote her virgin soul.  
And livid lights of bleeding dyes  
(Whenas she prods him with her prong)  
Make terrible her words so terse  
That brands this scoundrel on this shoal.  
And mutt'ring quick a ghastly oath  
As turgid mists veil shadows vague,  
She plucks his lying tongue that stole  
Her husband's love and honour old,  
And smites him stark and cold, tho' loath,  
It peers to me her demon-ague  
That binds her to this perjured soul,  
She drinks his gore from carvels cold

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[Pg 99]

And leers with fiendish lips at him,  
Now tossed in phosphorescent holes.  
And as I list to aspen cries,  
Veiled auguries in vapours hie  
And spell these tokens to each Inn:  
Kingdoms, empires, nations, souls,  
Shall miss the haunts of Paradise,  
And in Subjection, crumbling, lie.  
And when the regions, wrapped in light  
By pillared dreams and pomps supreme  
As curses stir the charnel air  
That hide dank caverns deep and bold,  
A battling monster smites the night  
As lepers wink their orbs and dream  
Of maidens that the men forswear,  
Of templed vaults now stiff in cold.  
And when a dim, unholy tomb,  
Wreathes odours damp and vapours strong—  
Heirs of the Doomed! as savage domes  
Drip palsied sweat and carnal howls  
Assail the stationed halls of gloom,  
Where imps and devils march along  
Beside a monarch's crumbling bones  
As witches don their filthy cowls  
And rant their sins thro' whistling halls,  
Shake women fists at fleeing souls  
And wail for bâtard children dead;  
Whilst quickly from the burning dust  
Ascends an oath that storms the walls  
And rasps the distant mounts and shoals  
Until each pyre glows scarlet red,  
Each idol leers with wicked lust.  
Forth from rubies flare scented fumes  
As beacons glare and bubbles hiss  
To crimson strands and altars' glow  
Of burning oils in carvels deep,  
Where; when Torture's bloody dome looms  
Cold as shambling shapes of men kiss  
Trembling women before the show,  
Wraiths point to where their daughters weep.

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[Pg 101]

To lie in vaults and chambers cold  
'Mid tombs that ghouls in hatred wrought!  
To sleep in dank Subjection's shard  
'Mid hanuts of purple sins and shales  
A Thirst gyre! as bleak, untold,  
As ever haunted woman sought  
For incubi on scented sward  
As bleary owls and vulpine wails  
Rake stationed nights and seas forlorn,  
Until, when star-linkt domes are red,  
And Oceans' shells and sands grow white,  
Dusky isles and lights—Twins of the Gloom!  
Betray each soul cursed and forsworn;  
Or awed, at Twilights' scarlet bed,  
When nightshades blot the conjured light  
As javels vomit death and doom,  
Dank vapours veil the seaward flight  
Of Satellites gray 'gainst the night.  
Till, eyes in fear peer at profounds  
Unfathomed and, in vales unsunned,  
See Cyclops battling in the light,  
'Mid scarlet foam and gorey sight  
Of bloody domes and hybrid hounds  
Of Titan's forges, cold, unstunned.  
Oh, vain each sinner's prayer of hope!  
Alas, alas, all thoughts of future trust!  
The bloody lanes of reigning Doom  
Are lasting tombs for souls accurst.  
When in a pool we lie and mope  
As vaulted temples rot in dust,  
Vague shapes and forms ascend to spell  
Infernal chasms of black gloom.  
When crested waves of billowed sea  
Are lashed by winds from foreign shoal,

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And foam-set breasts are dashed on high  
As silence holds the voiceless air,  
Unsavoury dreams haunt each lee—  
The maw of Hell receives a soul!  
A leering fiend blinks at the sky.

[Pg 103]

Beyond the realm of rulling Care,  
Caressed by suns and moons most fair,  
We fain would hie, all wrecks, and lie  
In dusky forests dells and vales;  
Beyond the Asian skies of blue,  
Where sports an elf, mayhap a hare,  
We fain would haste, each soul, and die,  
Unfurl all dreams and pinioned sails,  
And sleep unmourned in haunts we knew,  
Now wracks and domes stare at each soul,  
Giant goddards leak a rubic foam;  
Blind forges hold Contagion's breath;  
A Morgan longs for earthly home.  
'Tis so with hell's eternal shoal  
Where skinks eat flesh from wenches' bone;  
'Tis thus with us purloined by Death,  
Infernal doom that spells a moan.  
Ten thousand years was Doom crown'd King;  
Sporadic prayers each gnarl'd one lisp'd;  
Despotic sway all subjects curs'd  
When Hell was new and Earth unborn:  
Now souls of man in torture sing,  
Each Idol's glyph by damn'd one's kiss'd.  
Who then shall say who is the worst,  
A vyper's brood or man forsworn?

[Pg 104]

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### **Transcriber's Notes:**

Spelling has not been altered from the original.

The unmatched parenthesis on page 76 is presented as in the original.

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