

Symmetry Emergent

Flung spinward round, four maidens waltz,
their tangled threads of laughter, woven
through the firmament of time
and space;
a chiral fugue on interstellar hydrogen
in windblown notes
through telescopes
with smoke stained soggy eyes.

Each spectra superposed, a hint of fog
collapsed down foothills green
through rusted iron palisades.

Each swell of brownian crests, faint purpose worn;
wet with color.

For downtown neon lamps with weary taps,
a last call.

What is that their whispers say?

Not the brightest in this patch of night,
these dancing sisters;
nor their lonely accompaniment,
this melody of general unnameables.

No. Even Adhara's violet shawl
can only complement
the ripple of this mysterious probability,
this torpid counterpoint to our Olympus Mons;
its folded chords' time-like pursuit,
Pan's fragile chain, nucleic,
where gravities' certain remakes,
as of ice along the gap in Saturn's A Ring coiled,
the witching eye of Orion's dog.

And there,
where a summer's herald
casts fell taint of fevers, plagues and death,
we have a rub;
a vexing theme on plays perennial;
its tragic script, a sorcerous toil
where sothic scintillations
twist withered cairns of variegated stone
in feral mockery.

Another round of patrons fades.
The fretful ponder of doubtful portents, dispersing.
The dry wind's violence, rending.
Arid flakes of desolate orange rust and light, peeling.

Still, hymns of hope this night for a cousin lost,
her refractive bicker cut 'cross the spectrum, red
to emerald,
reminding each that choice is wrought with ambiguity.

Three steps in four?

A skip to ten from twenty-six?

Or the muddled splintering of an unbounded regression?

It is a sober contemplation

but a riddle out of time.

For today, just notches;

cuts upon a flint spear's shaft

tracking mammoth footprints in a pre-dawn snow;

a life's breath, crisp upon a brisk downwind breeze;

a faithful canine

at our side.

-J. Chamberlain

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