

Eagle's First Song

Hatched amongst grasses and earth
The dish held in tender leaf
Sun and wind sway and stir
Hungry mouths wide and begging
She lands and unswallows her feast
Pouring herself into them
Chicks now gulping under bright sun
Turgid and full is the sight.

Of earth and sky, of blood and piercing talons
Each day brings an eagle's heart
Before the promise, as earth and blood
Hungry and proud is life
Each eye open and winking...beaks piercing
Strength set against strength...
Hurt and hurting, strong and right
As blood and strength is this eagle's life!

Down into the meadow...stinging the earth
The fisted dive as an icicle falls
Dagger down in silent wind
Speeding before sound, to live
...to kill.

All things are as beak or prey
Life or the eye cut ever open
Slit...
Defeated.

Young and potent
A neck twists as rippling will
Eyes see to find, look to take
And so...does and Eagle stand
Over all things
Above and hungry
A shriek most pure and bloody
Floating...waiting.

Tangled talons in bright air
His life entwined too close to the earth
The birds set one against the other
Tumbling down through the air
Plummeting and wrestling

Strength spent in folly and fright
The earth a gauntlet—
Gathers sky and swallows
Air crashing downward
Falling and slipping
...ever downward into the future.

His neck snapped
...strength ruptured and broken
The eagle has lost
Hungry gulps of air...now never filled
A twisted shriek has swallowed gravity
Dark and heavy is the air
Unfilled in the dying breast
Choked and broken
A clot of dark spat from life's
Honest mouth.

But from this shell of hollow hate
The egg cracked but twice
And slowly did split, and yield but light
Feather and down now bright and rising
The shell now burst
Glad and sweet, quiet is the empty sound
...of soul unbound
From earth and soil
Spilt glad and new into the curve of heaven
...and above.

And down into the blue green ink he did peer
And did look
To see the choked heart of struggle
Promise shattered in pride and blood
Now above and within was his eye
Golden feather and light twice poured
...over all things
From above and within, he did see and weep
Know, and understand
...of loss.

So sweet is hope...his eye so gently cast
Into the darkest places
So full of salt and bitter tears of ice
To hide the heart...never but filled with daggered ice
...empty wind...and blood.

Now nourished to warmth
Smooth is the river which runs from my eye and breast
Above and within, I gather you near in warmth
...to know:

An Eagle's first height and promise
Heat shed, life now rich to be filled
A promise hovering, motionless,
...gathered upon the thinnest cold new air
Pure and warm are you, fresh within the sight
Now caught in my eye...I see you
And you should know
...how it could be.

You are an eagle too.

Just as I.

Please know...I am here

Floating...waiting.

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