

# Faustian Echoes

## Agalloch

[Faust:] "I, Johannes Faust, do call upon thee, Mephistopheles!"[Faust:]

O growing Moon, didst thou but shine

A last time on this pain of mine

Behind this desk how oft have I

At midnight seen thee rising high

O'er book and paper I bend

Thou didst appear, o mournful friend[Mephistopheles:]

I am the spirit that ever denies!

And justly so: for all that is born

Deserves to be destroyed in scorn

Therefore 'twere best if nothing were created

Destruction, sin, wickedness - plainly stated

All of which you as evil have classified

That is my element - there I abide[Manager: ]

Scatter the stars with a lavish hand

Water, fire, tavern wall

Birds and beasts, all within command

Thus in our narrow booth today

Creation's ample scope display

Wander swiftly, observing well

From the Heavens, to the World, to Hell!The World of Spirits is not barred to thee![Mephistopheles:] "Now then, Faustus. What wouldst thou have Mephisto do?"

[Faust:]

"I charge thee, Mephisto, wait upon me while I live... to do whatever Faustus shall command. Be it to make the moon drop from outer sphere, or the ocean to overwhelm the world. Go bear these tidings to great Lucifer: say he surrenders up his soul. So that he shall spare him four and twenty years, letting him live in all voluptuousness, having thee ever to attend on me. To give me whatsoever I shall ask."[Mephistopheles:] "I will."[Faust:]

Sublime spirit, thou hast given me all

All for which I besought thee, not in vain

Didst thou reveal thy countenance in the fire

Thou hast given me Nature for a kingdom

With the power to enjoy and feel

Only a visit of chilling bewilderment

Thou [then me?] bringest all the living creatures

And taught me to know my brothers in the Air

In the deep waters and in the silent coverts

When through the forest the storm rages

Uprooting the giant pines which in their fall

Crushing, drag down neighboring boughs and trunks

Whose [growingly?] hollow thunder shake the hills  
Then thou dost lead me to a sheltering cave  
And revealest me to myself and layest bare  
The deep mysterious miracle of my Nature  
And when the pure moon rises into sight  
Soothingly above me, then about me hover  
Creeping from rocky walls and dewy thickets  
Silver shadows, phantoms of a bygone world  
Which allay the austere joy of meditation  
Now fully do I realize that Man  
Can never possess perfection  
With this ecstasy which brings me near and nearer  
To the Gods[Margarete: ]  
My mother the harlot put me to death  
My father the scoundrel ate my flesh  
My dear little sister laid all my bones  
In a dark shaded place under the stones  
Then I changed into a wood-bird  
Fluttering away  
Fly away[Mephistopheles:]  
Mankind, that foolish Cosmos  
Always acts as incomplete  
He thought himself to Be  
I am part of that part which was the Absolute  
A part of that Darkness which gave birth to Light  
The arrogant Light which would dispute  
Ancient rank of Mother Night  
Therefore I hope it won't be long before  
With matter it shall perish evermore![Manager: ]  
Scatter the stars with a lavish hand  
Water, fire, tavern wall  
Birds and beasts, all within command  
Thus in our narrow booth today  
Creation's ample scope display  
Wander swiftly, observing well

From the Heavens to the WorldThe World of Spirits is not barred to thee![Faust:] "So, still I seek the force, the  
reason governing life's flow, and not just its external show."

[Mephistopheles:] "The governing force? The reason? Some things cannot be known; they are beyond your  
reach even when shown."

[Faust:] "Why should that be so?"

[Mephistopheles:] "They lie outside the boundaries that words can address; and man can only grasp those  
thoughts which language can express."

[Faust:] "What? Do you mean that words are greater yet than man?"

[Mephistopheles:] "Indeed they are."

[Faust:] "Then what of longing? Affection, pain or grief? I can't describe these, yet I know they are in my  
breast. What are they?"

[Mephistopheles:] "Without substance, as mist is."

[Faust:] "In that case man is only air as well!"

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