

# 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: ]

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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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