

LUCIFER

— A ROCK OPERA —

*Based on the poem "Luceafărul"
by Mihai Eminescu*

*English translation by
Dimitrie Cuclin
Music: Adrian Tăbăcaru
Video: Costin Chioreanu*

LUCIFER - A ROCK OPERA

Based on the poem “Luceafărul” by the Romanian poet Mihai Eminescu, translated in English by Dimitrie Cuclin, “Lucifer” Rock-Opera is composed and produced by Adrian Tăbăcaru during 2014-2018. The album was recorded at Taine-Multimedia Studio, mixed & mastered by Jens Bogren at Fascination Street Studios in 2019, the album features top-class musicians and actors from Romania and UK. Based on a libretto written by Ioana Ieronim, the video is produced by Costin Chioreanu.

THE MYSTERIOUS POET: One of the most mysterious poets of all time, lived in Romania (1850-1889). His name was Mihai Eminescu and it was a real challenge for many generations of students to comprehend to its real dimension his work. His poems of an undoubted beautifulness are followed by deep and extremely sophisticated messages, which can be understood only by initiates. His knowledge about the Universe and its mysteries are so advanced for the time he lived in, that is puzzling even for the most liberal scientists. His poems not only anticipate Einstein’s relativity theory but also talk about lack of time and space, wormholes, energy, as being the information that creates matter, and many other topics difficult to understand even today. Nobody can explain how this poet foresees all this knowledge, and the verses behind it are absolutely marvelous.

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION: The beauty of the poem comes, especially, from the particular combination of some keywords and from the musicality produced by the association of certain rhythmic words. The interpretation is unique and the vibrant amplitude of the text differs from reader to reader. Nevertheless, some connotative meanings of words are shared by all the native speakers of the language. There are words with a special resonance in the Romanian language and their beauty, substantially contribute to the general theme of this poem: love. Therefore, Dimitrie Cuclin preserved the lexical source of meaning and found those words in English that could strike similarities both in musicality and also in the semantic charge they hold.

A very important aspect regarding the translation would be not to misunderstood the poem’s meaning and to associate the name “Lucifer” to a biblical figure. One of the greatest translators of Eminescu, Corneliu M. Popescu wrote:

“With regard to the use of “Lucifer” in place of “Luceafărul”, it could be objected that Lucifer denotes the devil and not, like “Lucifer”, a personification of the prince of light, symbolized by a star. This is incorrect.

In English mythology, “Lucifer” holds a place almost identical to that which “Luceafărul” holds in the Romanian one: namely that of the prince of the light, visibly symbolized by a star.

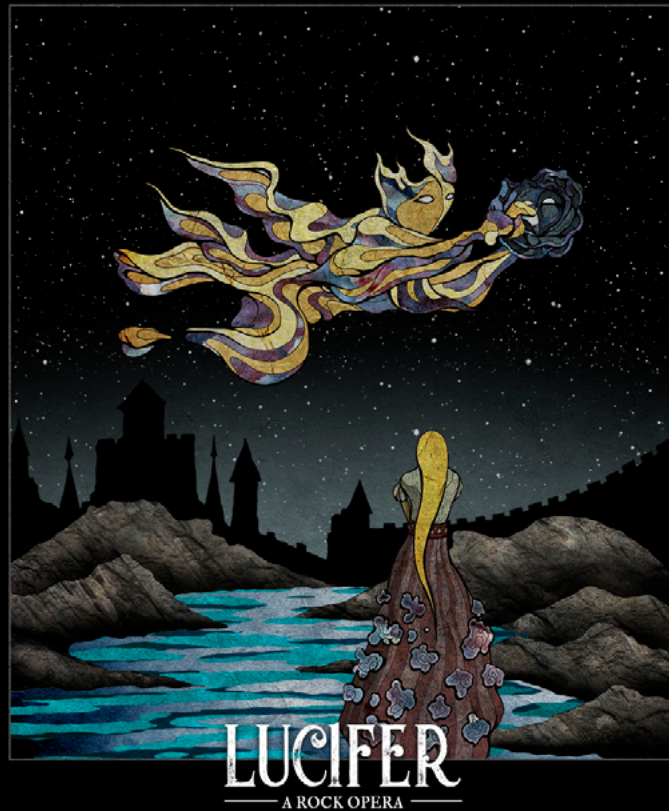
To translate “Luceafărul” by the simple designation of “evening-star” would be to deprive it of all personality.”

To illustrate the beauty and the complexity of this poem, we introduced an equivalent poem written by the English poet John Donne, “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”, a metaphysical poem wrote on the occasion of his separation from his wife, Anne.

The poem concerns what happens when two lovers have to part and explains the spiritual unification that makes this particular parting essentially unimportant.



ART CONCEPT



THE PRINCE OF THE NIGHT STAR'S FLIGHT

In the shadow of the dark that hides all mysteries, lies on his throne the Prince of The Night:

Ruling over the Universe, and casting his light,
The fluid that we feel within, that shines upon our night,
The night of our existence, the blackness of our sight.
Each thirsty mortal being quenching its thirst with fluid light,
Hails to the Night Star Prince and honors His flight.
Catalina is hailing to the Prince of the Night,
Weaving love and smiles and looks towards the golden Sky Knight.

And the Mysterious Poet reveals:

“Then Lucifer went out.

His wings grow, into heavens dash.

And on his way millenniums flee,

In less than a flash.”

The beautiful maid sees the light of the Prince Lucifer and shouts into the night:

“Descent to me, mild Lucifer,

Thou canst glide on a beam,

Enter my dwelling and my mind

And over my life gleam!

Oh, Come!”

“Oh, come to me, mild Lucifer!” so many times she asked.
And on her last prey, Lucifer went out. And with tears of light,
Shall beg his mighty Father, for mortal life, instead of light.
For humans shall all die following their fate,
While light lives forever, and will shine bright!

ART CONCEPT



THE ETERNAL DREAM

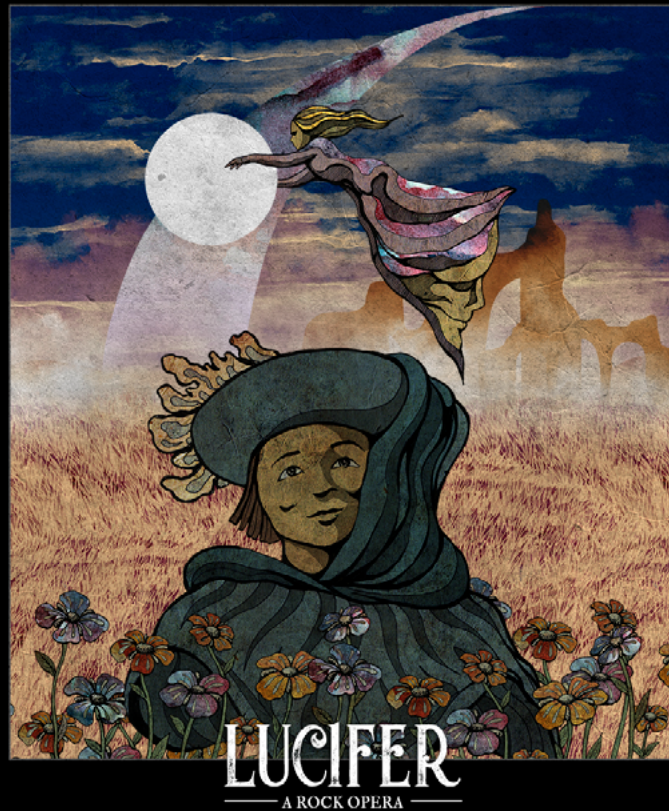
As Lucifer stands before Cătălina, she is calling him to descend to her world and lighten her soul.
She is thirsty of love and harmony which Lucifer's appearance is promising to give.
The dance of one being the other and then awake, returning to the start, confuses Cătălina,

In between worlds, the two, try to achieve the forbidden aim:
The love between a human and a spirit.

The matter lingers to the light that created it, to its perfection which can exist only in the nonexistence.
The spirit's fate is to roam timelessly, admiring the realm of life in the Universe,
but never to enter the mortal's world.



ART CONCEPT



THE FATE

The ineffable journey of their love, the place of their gathering, it's only in her dream,
a dream that falsely makes him human and as she dreams, becomes the light.
The dance of one being the other and then awake, returning to the start, confuses Cătălina,
who tells Lucifer she cannot follow him to the land of icy death, of the eternal life.
She wants Lucifer to give up his eternity, just to become a mortal being, like her.
He's twisted with pain but promises to ask permission and as he talks, he disappears from the sky.
A few nights the dark was absolute and fierce, no Lucifer to shine.

Meanwhile Cătălin, a sly young boy approaches her which looks like a good catch.
He never misses one. He's promising love and real touch, which Lucifer will never can.
She tries to chase him away, but then he tries again, until she slowly, sweetly, surrenders to his charm.

Fate is done!



ART CONCEPT



THE IMPOSSIBLE COALESCENCE

The path that Lucifer is taking, it's enigmatic to the young maiden.
She sees the melted Lucifer, who's flying, bending the light, trying to reach the land of the mortals,
just to be by her side.

This Union cannot be accepted by the cold Universe who stands between the worlds, yet Lucifer's growing pain,
makes him try to get a human shape, as he molds the water into a fine young Prince,
hoping to make her fall in love with him.

He traveled a world of Universes and time stood still, just to be next to the love that's waiting for him.
His ineffable appearance entangles with the maiden's whispers, inviting her to come into his Kingdom,
but she feels frozen by the cold, unreal image of the Prince.

Her eyes are charmed, yet not her heart though, so she won't follow the lifeless, icy looking, Star.
So, Lucifer's image, twisted by despair, vanishes into the blackness of the night.



ART CONCEPT



THE WORD OF THE CREATOR

Lucifer opened his wings again to fly back to his sphere of light, the center of the Universe,
the land of the Demiurge Knight.

And on his flight, below and the upside, was full of stars and he was the Thunder, a flashing light.
And as he flew through Chaos and the unborn stars, he sees the first lights of Creation springing into existence.
Time tries to be born, from holes of Chaos, when nothing was a thing and borders that don't yet exist,
flag your arrival to the beginning of the Universe.

There, in the middle lies Lucifer's Father, The Demiurge.
Lucifer kneels begging for mortal existence, as his love cannot be accomplished any other way.
The eternal Master of the Universe, the One that no human can comprehend,
listens to His Son and then He gloomy looks, then silently speaks, thundering the same time:

"Lucifer, you were born with the Universe. The Chaos gave you shape and form.
You cannot ask for masks that perish, as Oblivion is their name.
Their land is full of graves, your castle is eternal.
And what for you would like to be mortal?
Just turn your head and look down."

ART CONCEPT



THE CELESTIAL FUNERAL

Beyond the words, he's struck with grief and sees the distance growing fast,
the miracle of timeless place, it's vanishing within a flash.

He's loneliness it's Universe itself, his world is just a greedy hole, that swallows all his light.
Poor Lucifer laying between the day and night returns to his eternal life without a love, a death in fact.

Before he left, he whispered:
"What matters thee, you cloud of dust,
If't is me or someone else?
You live in your sphere's narrowness,
And luck rules over you.
But in my steady world I feel,
Eternal, cold and true."

Our story ends here, with Lucifer slowly being carried back to his eternal, cold Kingdom.
He will shine immortal light upon our world, coldly witnessing it.

ARTIST GALLERY



EUGEN BRUDARU - VOCALS AS HYPERION

Eugen Brudaru is a graduate of the accounting and management faculty of Spiru Haret in Constanța. Passionate about music he is quickly noticed as a vocal soloist in several Rock / Metal projects. He works for two years in accounting and then for 6 years at a local radio station as a music editor, but his passion remains music. He is currently the soloist of White Walls, Lupu 'cel Rău, as well as his solo project called Haunted Island. In the "Lucifer" Rock-Opera, Eugen plays the role of Hyperion and he also recorded other vocal scores for the opera.



MARIA HOJDA - VOCALS AS CĂTĂLINA

Alexandra Maria Hojda graduated the National Music University from Bucharest, is well-known for participating in the Megastar, X Factor and Voice of Romania TV contests where she was a finalist. She is also playing as backing-vocal in one of the most famous Romanian singers, vLoredana Groza's band, and also she is collaborating with The TM Groove band from Timișoara where she currently lives. In the "Lucifer" Rock Opera, Maria plays the role of Cătălina.



RĂZVAN KRIVACH - VOCALS AS CĂTĂLIN

Răzvan Krivach graduated the "G.Dima" Music University from Cluj, he is a music composer and producer, collaborating with several world-music artists and bands like Emeric Imre or Punct ROM. His theatrical activity is broad, one of the most important roles in his career was in the "Jesus Christ Superstar" musical directed by Jancso Hajnal. Răzvan is also an electronic-music producer in the project clarObscura. In the "Lucifer" Rock Opera, Răzvan plays the role of Cătălin.

ARTIST GALLERY



LAURA MIHĂILĂ - VOCALS

Laura Mihăilă graduated the Architecture and Urbanism University “Ion Mincu” and the National Art University, both in Bucharest. Before choosing her professional paths, Laura showed a big passion for music. At first her focus was on classical piano from kinder garden to high school, but once she discovered local music and bands, her mind was made up and it resulted in a versatile musical activity with a number of bands in a constant search for new inspiration and personal development.



IUSTINIAN ZETEA - BASS

Iustinian Zetea graduated the Music University of Bucharest and is a soloist at the Bucharest National Opera. In 2011, he completed his master's degree at the National University of Music Bucharest, the Faculty of Interpretation, the Canto section at the prof. dr. Ionel Voineag and is currently a doctoral student in the third year, under the guidance of prof. dr. Valentina Sandu-Dediu.



DOMINIC CRISTEA - BARITONE

Dominic Cristea graduated the National University of Music in Bucharest, a young lyrical artist who has managed to align himself with the world-wide experienced lyric artists, demonstrating that the new-coming artist generation will carry on the art of classical interpretation in Romania. He is a soloist of the “N. Leonard” Operetta Theatre, a collaborator of the Bucharest National Opera and is definitely an artist in continuous evolution.

ARTIST GALLERY



DRAGOȘ CREȚU - VOCALS

Dragoș Crețu is one of the unique voice talents in, his timbre, power and musical attitude make him one of the best metal artists in Romania. The track recorded with Dragoș for “Lucifer” Rock-Opera is called “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”, a metaphysical poem written by the English poet John Donne.



ANDREI IONESCU - VOCALS

Andrei Ionescu is the founding member of Taine band founded in 1993 inspired by bands like Megadeth, Iron Maiden, Coroner and Annihilator. Aside from music, Andy was really passionate about the history of religions, which he studied at university. He became a fan of Death, Cynic and Atheist, three bands that he quotes to this day as being his main musical influences.

For the “Lucifer” Rock-Opera, Andrei has performed the backing vocals for the track “A Valediction - Forbidding Mourning”.



ANDREW PLEAVIN - NARATOR

Born in the UK, Andrew Pleavin lived in Transvaal, South Africa for most of his youth. Andrew is a prestigious theater and movie actor, known for his appearance in films like 300: Rise of an Empire, Inception, Witchville, The Gift, Batman Begins and so many more.

He performed in several plays in and around Liverpool before moving to London to train at Drama Centre London under Christopher Fettes and Yat Malmgren in 1993, he started his professional acting career on graduating, in 1996.

ARTIST GALLERY



OLIMPIA MĂLAI - ANGELS

Olimpia Mălai is an actress, voice-over and translator, she studied acting at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj and foreign languages and literature at the University of Bucharest, she is a collaborator with many theater and film companies as a freelancer. You can find her in films like “Wer”, “Tortured for Christ” directed by John Grooters or “Povestea unui pierde-vară”, directed by Paul Negoescu. For the “Lucifer” Rock-Opera, Olimpia recorded the duality angels. voices.



ANDREEA ȚIMIRAȘ - CELLO

Born in a family of musicians, Andreea begins to study cello under the guidance of her father. She graduated the National University of Music in Bucharest, perfecting at the courses of artistic mastery for cello with David Geringas and chamber music with Trio Abegg. Member of the Sicilian Symphony Orchestra from 2001-2015, Andreea has a rich solo and chamber-music activity both in the country and abroad, approaching genres from the most different ones: from the early-music with the BAROckeri Ensemble.



RALUCA STRATULAT -VIOLINS

Raluca Ioana Stratulat was born in 1980 in Bucharest, graduated the National Music University in Bucharest in 2003, has a Master degree from the same institution in 2005, a PhD in music since 2010 and also graduated MIDAS courses at U.N.M.B in 2013. She has participated in many classical and contemporary music festivals, solo or as member in various chamber ensembles. She was awarded several times by national and international contests, has performed in Romania, Holland, Finland, Greece, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Belgium, Italy and the US.

ARTIST GALLERY



ADRIAN BUCIU - FLUTE

Born in a family with deep musical traditions, Adrian Buciuc is vice dean of the Faculty of Musical Interpretation, National University of Music in Bucharest since 2016. University lecturer of the Department of Chamber Music and Orchestra from the same institution, from 2018. Double license from UNMB, Flute and Directed sections. In 2007 he obtained the title of Doctor of Music with “Summa cum Laude”.



SEBASTIAN BURNECI - TRUMPET

Trumpeter and soloist of the Romanian Big-Band Radio Orchestra and a graduate of the Prince Claus Conservatoire of the Netherlands under the guidance of Alex Sipiagin, Sebastian Burneci is an active member in several international jazz projects, founder and leader of the Bucharest Jazz Orchestra ensemble, he is one of the more representative musicians of his generation. First trumpeter and soloist of Big Band Radio, Sebastian is an integral part of the most important live recordings and productions of the last 15 years.



CONSTANTIN URZICEANU - CLARINET

Born in Bucharest, Constantin Urziceanu attended the “Dinu Lipatti” music school and high school in Bucharest, receives higher musical studies at the Music University of Bucharest at the clarinet section where he obtains his Master’s degree in Contemporary Music. Constantin is an employee of the National Opera House in Bucharest, has collaborated with the most important orchestras in Romania since 2005, is passionate about chamber music and has a rich experience in large orchestral ensembles.

ARTIST GALLERY



SERGIU FEIER - OBOE

Sergiu Dan Feier is a collaborator of the National Opera and Musical Theater “Ion Dacian” in Bucharest.



PETRE IFTIMIE - GUITAR

Petre Iftimie studied Classical Guitar Performance at Gh. Dima Music Academy, he became active in the progressive metal scene in late 2007 when forming Illuminati alongside his friend Andrei Popa. After releasing “The Core” with Illuminati, Petre became interested in a wide variety of genres ranging from progressive metal to pop and jazz fusion. In 2013 Petre joined Taine where he toured and recorded until 2018.

Petre is currently a member of Contraband X and a producer at Demisec Records.



ANDREI POPA - GUITAR

Andrei Popa studied movie-directing at the Media University - Faculty of Cinematography and Television in Bucharest, and started his career in adolescence singing with bands from Piatra Neamț. More seriously in 2005, along with Negura Bunget, with whom he plays in several tournaments in Romania and abroad. In 2008, he founded the Illuminati band, a progressive death-metal project with Petre Iftimie, Matei Tibacu and Ștefan Hâncu. Since 2010 he has been the guitarist of the Romanian singer Loredana Groza. Andrei started doing music production and has a project with Maria Hojda called “Ceva”.

ARTIST GALLERY



ALEXEI NICHIFOROF - BASS

Alexei Nichiforof is born in the town of Brăila, near the Danube River and is of Russian descent. He is a professional bass player with a great experience on the stage and in the studio. He ventured into the world of art as a visual artist and sculptor, having studied arts in high school and at the University of Bucharest where he has a master's degree. He also had a passion for music, having picked up the guitar at the age of 12 and switched to bass in high school. Currently Alexei plays with the band Taine.



ADRIAN TĂBĂCARU - DRUMS/KEYS

Adrian Tăbăcaru began drum lessons at the age of three inspired by his father's passion for music. At the age of six, Adrian starts performing on stage at festivals across the country with his father's band. In 1987 he attended "Dinu Lipatti" music school where he takes piano and percussion lessons. In 1993 he founded Taine band with Andy Ionescu. Graduate of the National Music University of Bucharest at the percussion class Adrian loves the marimbaphone and receives advanced knowledge in interactive music composition and performing arts receiving a Master's degree for his professional practices.



COSTIN CHIOREANU - VIDEO

Born on the 13th of March, 1982, Costin Chioresanu is a Romanian graphic designer, illustrator and video artist. His passion for drawing and his interest in heavy metal music were juxtaposed in the mid 90's, when he realized that the artworks found in his own collection of bootleg cassettes released in the post-communist era, had to be improved. Specializing in Graphic Design, with a bachelor's and a master's degree at the National University of Arts, he started his graphic studio in 2003, under the name of Twilight 13 Media. Some of his more renowned collaborators are Ihsahn, At the Gates, Opeth or Arch Enemy.

ARTIST GALLERY



IOANA IERONIM - LIBRETTO

Ioana Ieronim is a poet, essayist, translator and writer, an important figure of our day, with mastery and elegance representing Romanian art and culture abroad. Translations from Ioana Ieronim's lyrics have appeared in US magazines, Great Britain, Sweden, France, Hungary. Her first volume published abroad was "The Triumph of the Water Witch", translated by Adam J. Sorkin. In the bibliography of Ioana Ieronim there are also articles, chronicles that appeared in the Romanian and foreign press.



MORARU ANIȘOARA - CONSULTANT

Anișoara Moraru is a Romanian and French language and literature teacher, a French-Romanian translator and for the "Lucifer" Rock-Opera, Mrs. Moraru offered consultancy and specialized assistance related to the whole text of the poem, contributing to the elaboration of its condensed version as well as a fruitful and effective edit of the final narrated text.



JENS BOGREN - MASTERING

Jens Bogren, founder and head of Fascination Street Studios since 2001, is famous worldwide for his work with some of the biggest acts in metal today. Sepultura, Kreator, Dimmu Borgir, Opeth, Amon Amarth, Arch Enemy, Devin Townsend, Paradise Lost, At The Gates, Soilwork, Moonspell, God Forbid, Amorphis, Dark Tranquillity, Powerwolf, Dir En Grey, Anthem, BabyMetal, Haken, Leprous, The Ocean, Katatonia and James LaBrie (Dream Theater) are just a few of the artists that have had their albums produced and/or mixed by Jens. You'll also find some pretty wild mastering credits on his roster, e.g. a live concert movie with Taylor Swift.

LYRICS

LUCIFER

There was, as in the fairy tales,
As ne'er in the time's raid,
There was, of famous royal blood
A most beautiful maid.
She was her parents' only child,
Bright like the sun at noon,
And like the virgin midst the saints
And among stars the moon.

From the deep shadow of the vaults
Her step now she directs
Toward a window, at its nook
Bright Lucifer expects.

She looks as in the distant seas
He rises, darts his rays
And leads the blackish, loaded ships
On the wet, moving, ways.

To look at him every night
Her soul her instincts spur.
And as he looks at her for weeks
He falls in love with her.

And to her room with her slow steps
He bears his steps and aims
Weaving out his sparkles cold
A toil of shaking flames.

She speaks with him
In sleep and sighs
While her heart's
Swelled veins drum

"Oh, sweet Lord of my fairy nights,
Why comest thou not? Come!

Descent to me, mild Lucifer,
Thou canst glide on a beam,
Enter my dwelling and my mind
And over my life gleam!
Oh, Come!"

LONGING FOR THE STAR

Meanwhile, the house-boy, Cătălin
Sly, and who often jests
When he's filling with wine the cups
Of the banqueting guests.
A page that carries step by step
The trail of the Queen's gown,
A wandering bastard, but bold,
Like no one in the town.
His little cheek-a peony
That under the sun stews.
Watchful, just like a thief, he sneaks
In Cătălina's views.

"How beautiful she grew"
Thinks he.
A flower just to pluck!
Now, Cătălin, but now it is
Thy chance to try luck.

And by the way, hurriedly he
Corners that human fay:

What's with thee, Cătălin!
Let me alone and go thy way!"

"No! I want thee to stay away
From thoughts that have no,
Have no fun at all."

"Give me a kiss, just one!"
"I want to see you only laugh.

"I don't know, I could show
And, believe me, retire!
But for one, Lucifer,
From up I've kept my strong desire!"

"Thou art a child! Let's go!"
"Through new lands our own fate"
"Let's frame, we shall be both wise,"
"And forgot our name!"
"Glad, and whole, I understand no more"
"Glad, and whole"
"Forgot even our name!"
Thou wouldst not long for thy kin."

"Nor yearn for Lucifers!"

BEYOND INFINITY

Then Lucifer went out,
His wings grow into heavens dash,
And on his way, millenniums flee in less than a flash.

Below, a depth of stars,
Above, the heaven stars begin,
He seems an endless lightning that is wandering through them.

And from the Chaos' vales he sees
How an immense ring rounds him,
As when the world's first-day lights from their sources spring.

How springing, they hem him like an ocean that swimming nears,
He flees carried by his desire until he disappears.

ASKING THE VOID

'Tis nought. 'Tis, though, thirst that sips him
And which he cannot shun,
'Tis depth unknown, comparable
To blind oblivion.

From that dark, choking, endlessness
Into which I am furl'd,
Father, undo me,
And for e'er be praised in the whole world!

Ask anything for this new fate
For with mine, I am through.
Oh, hear my prayer, Oh, my Lord,
For Thou givest life and death too!

Take back my endlessness, the fires
That my being devour
And in return give me a chance
To love but for an hour.

A VALEDICTION - FORBIDDING MOURNING

- A POEM BY JOHN DONNE -

As virtuous men pass mildly away,
And whisper to their souls to go,
Whilst some of their sad friends do say
The breath goes now, and some say, No

So let us melt, and make no noise,
No tear-floods, nor sigh-tempests move,

'Twere profanation of our joys
To tell the laity our love.
Moving of th' earth brings harms and fears,
Men reckon what it did and meant,

But trepidation of the spheres,
Though greater far, is innocent.
Dull sublunary lovers' love
Whose soul is sense cannot admit

Absence, because it doth remove
Those things which elemented it.
But we by a love so much refined
That our selves know not what it is

Inter-assured of the mind,
Care less, eyes, lips, and hands to miss.
Our two souls therefore, which are one,
Though I must go, endure not yet

A breach, but an expansion,
Like gold to airy thinness beat.

If they be two, they are two so
As stiff twin compasses are two.
Thy soul, the fixed foot, makes no show
To move, but doth, if th' other do.

"I take a peek inside my mind
Animal happiness find
Its beautifully identifiable intelligence
That space
Electrically bioelectrogenetically
Multidisciplinarianismic
Creativity place."

And though it in the center sit,
Yet when the other far doth roam,
It leans and hearkens after it,
And grows erect, as that comes home.

Such wilt thou be to me, who must
Like th' other foot, obliquely run.
Thy firmness makes my circle just,
And makes me end where I begun.

CONCLUSIO

His first dominion in the sky
Hyperion restores
And as in his first day, his light
All o'er again he pours.

The silvery blooms spread their smells
And their soft cascade knocks
The tops of the heads of both youths
With long and golden locks.

And all bewitched by love,
She lifts her eyes toward the fires,
Of the witnessing Lucifer,
And trusts him her desires:

Descend to me, mild Lucifer,
Thou canst glide on a beam,
Enter my forest and my mind
And o'er my good luck gleam!"

As he did it once, into woods,
On hills, his rays, he urges,
Guiding throughout so many wilds
The gleaming, moving, surges.

But he falls not as he did once
From his height into swells:

"What matters thee, clod of dust,
If 'Tis me or someone else?
You live in your sphere's narrowness
And luck rules over you,

But in my steady world I feel
Eternal, cold and true.

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