

All Good Things Must End

Hello World

© Crowley-Bartsch 2010

~context~

Pandora – the first woman on Earth – is a little too curious for her own good and feels the need to discover the mystery behind every object. This includes a vase that was given to her and her husband Epimetheus as a wedding present by the God Zeus. Zeus left a note with the vase to warn Pandora and Epimetheus that it should never be opened – but Pandora can't resist. She ends up opening the vase – and, in the process, she unleashes strange creatures (called the "Miseries") open the world.

VOICES

(Singing.)

HELLO WORLD,
HERE WE ARE.
COULD IT TRULY BE WE'RE FREE NOW?
HELLO WORLD,
NEAR AND FAR,
WE OWN EVERYTHING YOU SEE NOW.

IN A PINCH
EV'RY INCH
WILL SOON BOW TO US
AND KOWTOW TO US,
LIKE SO...

A LOUD CRASH of THUNDER. PANDORA falls to HER knees in terror. The VOICES laugh, then continue:

VOICES

(Singing.)
HELLO WORLD
TAKE A GOOD LOOK
AT THE WAY YOUR LANDSCAPE SHOULD LOOK.
BID ADIEU.
TOODLE-LOO.

PANDORA

(Singing.)
OH, NO.

The SHADOWY FIGURES - the MISERIES -
emerge into greater view. THEY
represent all the evil and darkness of
the world. PANDORA gasps upon seeing
THEM, seeks to flee - but the MISERIES
block HER way.

MISERIES

(Singing.)
YES, YES, MY DEAR,
WE'RE HERE, WE'RE HERE
SO PERK UP YOUR EARS AND HEED US.
IT'S TRUE THE AIR
WAS HOT IN THERE
SO THANKFUL ARE WE YOU FREED US.

The King MISERY - "DEATH" - who is
submerged in a black cloak - steps
forward and approaches PANDORA with
playfully threatening aplomb.

DEATH

(Singing.)
I KNOW, I KNOW,
IT'S TRUE THAT STRANGE AND NEW WE ARE.
THUS, WE WILL SHOW
THE WORLD AND YOU JUST WHO WE ARE.

During the following, DEATH gestures to
various MISERIES (all of THEM attired
vis-à-vis their purposes) and
identifies THEM with evident relish.

DEATH

(Singing.)
HERE'S A FELLOW WITH A KNACK
FOR PAINTING EV'RYTHING IN BLACK.
IN HIM YOU SURELY WILL DELIGHT.
COME, COME, MY DEAR, AND MEET THE NIGHT.

DEATH

HERE'S ANOTHER CHARMING GEM
OF SPOTS AND NAUS-E-A AND PHLEGM.
HE'LL MAKE YOU COUGH AND SCRATCH AND SNEEZE.
COME, COME, MY DEAR, AND MEET DISEASE.

AH, YES, THAT ONE AS COLD AS STONE
WHO CHISELS MIND AND SKIN AND BONE
WILL STALK YOUR LIFE AT EVERY STAGE -
COME, COME, MY DEAR, AND MEET OLD AGE.
NEARBY, YOU'LL CATCH A FEARFUL CREW
WHO'LL PUT THE EARTH AT WAR WITH YOU
AND CAUSE THE LAND TO FREEZE AND SHAKE -
WE CALL THEM WINTER, STORM, AND QUAKE.

AS FOR ME... WELL, DARE I SAY...
INSTEAD, I'LL TURN THE JOY TO THEY...

OTHER MISERIES

(Singing.)

HE'LL CATCH AND SMOTHER YOUR POOR BREATH.
COME, COME, MY DEAR, AND NOW MEET... DEATH!

Grandly, DEATH throws off HIS cloak to
expose a frightening skeletal figure.
PANDORA gasps and backs away. The
MISERIES laugh.

MISERIES

(Singing.)

AH, YES, AH, YES,
YOU ASK "WHY WERE THEY SENT TO ME?"
WELL, WE CONFESS,
THAT'S SIMPLY HOW IT'S MEANT TO BE.

ALTHOUGH IT OFTEN PAINS
THE SIMPLE FACT REMAINS
EACH LITTLE ROAD MUST BEND
AND ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END.

SOME DIVER MEETS A SHARK...
SOME NOAH NEEDS AN ARK...
A WOMAN STARTS TO SPEND...
YES, ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END.

A LIFE TOO MUCH PERFUMED
SOON IS DOOMED,
SOON IS DOOMED,
FOR IT'S JUST LIKE A BALLOON
REplete WITH AIR IN.
IT ALWAYS BEGS THE WORST
WITH A BURST,
WITH A BURST,

MISERIES

WHEN FAR OFF OR VERY SOON
YOU GET A TEAR IN.

THUS, WE MUST BURST YOUR BALLOON.
NOW FOR DOOMSDAY IT'S HIGH NOON.
SO, COME, HAIL AND HEED THIS TUNE, MY DEAREST FRIEND.
ALTHOUGH IT HURTS US
THE TRUTH ALERTS US
THAT ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END.

ALTHOUGH YOU MAY DESPAIR,
THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS THERE:
ALL FORTS YOU CAN'T DEFEND
AND ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END.

SOME ENGINES UP AND STALL...
SOME SNODGRASS DROPS THE BALL...
SWEET FANNIE STARTS TO LEND...
YES, ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END.

A LIFE WHERE PAIN'S SURPASSED
WILL NOT LAST,
WILL NOT LAST,
FOR IT'S ALWAYS DOOMED TO DIE
LIKE EV'RY DREAM DOES.
IN TIME, YOU'LL WAKE AND SEE
VACANCY,
VACANCY,
WHEN YOU SEARCH THE LONELY SKY
FOR WHERE YOUR DREAM WAS.

THUS, WE'LL FILL YOUR SKY ANEW
HERE'S A NIGHTMARE OR A FEW.
YOU MIGHT LIKEN LIVING TO A FASHION TREND.
JUST WHEN IT GOES UP,
RIGHT THEN IT BLOWS UP,
FOR ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END.

A dance sequence as the MISERIES circle
the stage and surround PANDORA.

MISERIES

(Singing.)

ALTHOUGH IT'S QUITE SEVERE
WE'LL SAY IT LOUD AND CLEAR:
LET NOT YOUR HEART PRETEND
THAT ALL GOOD THINGS DON'T END.

SOME MIMI UP AND DIES...
SOME MATRON SHOWS HER THIGHS...
YIKES, RUSSIA'S ON THE MEND...
YES, ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END.

MISERIES (CONT)

A CALM LIFE BLAND AND BLEAK
MAKES YOU MEEK,
MAKES YOU MEEK,
FOR YOUR SPIRIT TURNS AS SOFT
AS ANY CUSHION.
ONE GRUMBLE AND YOU'LL STRAY
M. I. A.,
M. I. A.,
HAVING FOUND A LONELY LOFT
TO SQUEEZE YOUR TUSH IN.

NOW, NOW, DON'T YOU TRY TO HIDE.
SOULS AND LOFTS WE LOOK INSIDE.
YES, YOUR AMNESTY'S DENIED, WITHOUT AMEND.

DEATH

(Singing.)
THUS, WE'VE DECIDED.
THEM, WE, AND I DID.

MISERIES

(Singing.)
MIDNIGHT COMES AND CINDY-RELL
LOOKS UP AND SCREAMS "OH, HELL."
SHE FLEES THE BALL
AND HITS SOME WALL
AND FALLS RIGHT DOWN A WELL.
ACCEPT THE VERSION WE EXTEND
FOR ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END.