Handsome Devil "Tesla's Hotel Room"

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In the last days of wonder When spirits still flew Where we sat holding hands In half-darkened rooms

Nicola Tesla In the hotel New Yorker Nursing sick pigeons By the open window

Dreamed of a death ray To disintegrate matter Detected Morse code From faraway planets

He couldn't stand the touch Of hair or of skin But stroked feathers gently On trembling wings

And drew plans for a camera To photograph thoughts Vacuum tube lights Wireless phones

In the last days of wonder When spirits still flew Round bubbling test tubes In half-darkened rooms

Edison and Westinghouse In silk brocade Ate oysters Rockerfeller With French champagne

But Tesla grew thin Eating only saltines Going days in his lab Without any sleep

Dreaming of god

As an X-ray beam He was hit by a cab While crossing the street

Lying on his bedspread He struggled to breathe The light bulbs exploded The air filled with wings

In the last days of wonder When spirits still flew Tesla vacated His half-darkened room

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