

Maudlin Of The Well "The Ferryman"

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Portitor has horrendus aquas et flumina servat
Terribili squalore Charon, cui plurima mento
Canities inculta jacet, stant lumina flamma,
Sordidus ex umeris nodo dependet amictus

Ibant obscuri sola sub nocte per umbram
Perque domos Ditis vacuas et inania regna
Quale per incertam lunam sub luce maligna
Est eiter in silvis, ubi caelum condidit umbra
Juppiter, et rebus nox abstulit atra colorem

"Sic demum lucos Stygis et regna in via vivis aspicias..."
"Anchisa generate deum certissima proles,
Cocyti stagna alta vides Stygiamque paludem.
Di cujus jurare timent et fallere numen."

Nec plura his. Ille admirans venerabile donum
Fatalis virgae longo post tempore visum
Caeruleam advertit puppim ripaeque propinquat.

Watching over these waves and streams of filth is the
Horrible ferryman Charon, on whose chin countless
unkept
Grey hairs lie outspread; his eyes endure in flame, and
A squalid cloak hangs knotted from his shoulders.

Beneath lonely darkness the gloomy travellers go
through shadow
And through the deserted abodes and ghostly
kingdom of Dis:
Through uncertain moonlight under rays of a spiteful
sort the way
Lies in the woods, where Jupiter hides the sky in
shadow and
Night steals colour from the black heavens.

"In this manner you will at last behold the sacred grove
of Styx
And the kingdom pathless to the living..."
"Child of Anchises, most certain prodigy of a god, you
will see
The deep mere of the mournful river of Hades and the

swamp of
Styx, whose divine power the gods fear to swear by
and prove false."

Nothing more was said. Wondering at the venerable
offering of the
Fated branch, seen after a distant time, he turned the
vessel to
The darkness and the shores approached.

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