Ordo Draconis "A Crimson Dawn Or An Overture To The Ravenfeathered Queen"

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The introduction (as included in the booklet):
The scenery of "A Crimson Dawn" is a bloody battle area at early morning. The omnipresent colour of red indicates both aurora, and blood and fire. The Morrigan is the Celtic goddess of war, death and rebirth, who appears as an appalling raven when like mad she rages over the battlefield. Her cries can be heard at a warrior's death.

I: (The harbinger Morrigan)

Blear with dew came the morrow
And winds rustled aloud.
Down by the rill where purled the flow
The Washer1 washed the shrouds
And Nemain2 sang of woe and sorrow.

"O black-feathered Morrigan"

II: (O'er bleak winds of death)

A raven, Morrigan yclept, loomed awaiting burial. On wings o'er rueful winds, she stalked along.

A storm-blast of blazonry chased the sands And left the drift seen afar. A breeze brought the scattered grains, That flung 'gainst the dewy scars.

Her frenzied squawks exhorted the ravage And the hewing of sheen blades, And blood suffused the barren earth, 'Pon which the crimson dawn glowered.

A Crimson Dawn Awakened!

III: (Hoarse cries and clanging steel)

The brash and bray heartened the noble souls To defy the singeing fervour of battle. The carmine sky was brimming with sore shrieks, As they rose high above the flourish of brazen trumpets.

IV: (The beacon glare)

When, dark by smoke and red by fire, Aurora had won the day, The sun, in beacon glare, rose higher And sweltered drouthy fey.

V: (The ascent of warlike fever)

The fervour seared the sanguine plain, And the sour scent of cold damp Did linger no more. Undaunted or felled, Shrieks resounded to where their lot was cast.

"O black-feathered Morrigan"

"Thrilled by rankling fury, as I hearkened direful voices,

The red blaze of death aroused my vengeful moods." "The glorious grandeur of battle, at this blood-tinged dawn,

Made boil my ebon ichor, glinstering as steel whirled."

The carmine sky in ashen stains flecked Brimmed with husky moans.
Thus the sabre-rattling swoll Into drear timbres of ire (The empty words sceptred).

VI: (On the brink of ruin)

"Wounds of savage thrusts Shifted me to the brink of ruin And the grave burden borne Struggled tho' I strained life."

VII: (A draught of immortality)

A raven, Morrigan yclept, loomed watching the battlefield.

On wings o'er rueful winds, she stalked along.

"Thrilled by rankling fury, as I hearkened direful voices,

The roan blaze of death aroused my vengeful moods."

[&]quot;In awe of ancestral victories won

I unsheathed and brandished my sword Once more. Dreadful countenances fell Until the baleful knell rang triste."

After the dismal rise of the sullen sun,
Ravens reap the rich morning harvest,
As the drenched earth is sated by thousands
And splendid glory has been gained.
The ardent ashes that flare
Smoulder with more afterglow
Than a midsummer fever would leave
And now the embers are fanned.

- 1. In full the Washer at the Ford, has been told to wash the clothes of those warriors already destined to fall in battle. A warrior, who saw her washing his very own blood-stained clothes, had seen the prediction of his own death.
- 2. Nemain is one of the three forms attained by Morrigan. She is known a scaremongerer for she sowed panic among the warrior's wives.

I who have stood dumb when your betraying sisters, cauled in tar, wept by the railings, who would connive in civilized outrage yet understand the exact and tribal, intimate revenge. (Seamus Heaney Punishment)

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