

## Angelo Branduardi "Mustapha's Tale"

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ANGELO BRANDUARDI  
"fables and fantasies"

Mustapha's Tale

Mustapha the silver bit and stoked up the fire  
Began his tale once in the blue hills so tired  
I found a cave to shelter in, the entrance was low  
If its fable or fantasy the desert wind knows  
If its fable or fantasy the desert wind blows

Suddenly awakened with a black chill of terror  
I saw twelve hooded figures in graveyard apparel  
Who shuffling towards me where I crouched by the wall  
Said Mustapha you're now one of us, we have need of  
one more  
Yes joining hands they left a place and called for one  
more

Thirteen we must be tonight for conjure and scheme  
My limbs gave me to them I prayed that I dreamed  
My hands held fast by other hands the circle was  
closed  
If its fable or fantasy the desert wind knows  
If its fable or fantasy the desert wind blows

A pentagram of Caldea was drawn in vermillion  
Where five lamps were a'flickering to foul incantation  
When all at once sulphurous vapours did rise  
A cloud, a shape, a form, a face with tapers for eyes

Never was a gargoyle more hideously moulded  
Or a voice heard more of snake fit  
Which that awful head issued  
No greater riches offered for a small sacrifice  
A name in blood, a promised soul, the unholy price  
A name in blood, a promised soul, the unholy price

It offered me all women both living and dead  
Palaces and flower a crown for my head  
But from somewhere deep inside me came the  
strength to scream no

If its fable or fantasy the desert wind knows  
If its fable or fantasy the desert wind blows

Mustapha the silver bit and stoked up the fire  
Began his tale once in the blue hills so tired  
I found a cave to shelter in and the rest I've disclosed  
Fable or fantasy the desert wind blows  
Fable or fantasy the desert wind blows  
If its fable or fantasy the desert wind blows

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