

## **Mediaeval Baebes, The "Erthe Upon Erthe"**

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15th Century English

Erthe out of erthe is wonderly wroghte  
Erthe hase geten one erthe a dignite of noghte  
Erthe upon erthe hase sett alle his thoghte  
How that erthe upon erthe may be heghe broghte

Erthe upon erthe wolde be a kinge  
Bot how erthe to erthe shall thinkes he no thinge  
When erthe bredes erthe and his rentes home bringe  
Thane shall erthe of erthe have full harde parting

Memento, homo, quad cinis es  
Et in cenerem reverentis

Erthe upon erthe winnes castells and towrres  
Thane sayse erthe unto erthe, "This es al ourres"  
When erthe upon erthe has bigged up his barres  
Thane shall erthe for erthe suffere sharpe scowrres

Memento, homo, quad cinis es  
Et in cenerem reverentis

Erthe goes upon erthe as molde upon molde  
He that gose upon erthe, gleterande as golde  
Like erthe never more go to erthe sholde  
And yitt shall erthe unto erthe ga rathere than he wolde

Whye erthe lurves erthe, wondere me thinke  
Or why erthe for erthe sholde other swete or swinke  
For when erthe upon erthe has broughte within brinke  
Thane shall erthe of erthe have a foul stinke

Memento, homo, quad cinis es  
Et in cenerem reverentis

Memento, homo, quad cinis es  
Et in cenerem reverentis

Translation:

Earth has been miraculously created out of earth

Earth has attained a high position on earth out of  
nothing  
Earth has fixed all his thoughts  
On trying to raise earth to heaven on earth

Earth wants to be an earthly king  
But earth doesn't have a clue how on earth to go about  
it  
When earth breeds earth and brings his reward home  
Earth and earth will have to bid each other a tragic  
farewell

Remember, o man, that you are ashes  
And into ashes you will return

Earth conquers castles and towers on earth  
Then says earth to the earth, "All of this belongs to us"  
When earth has built up his defences on earth  
That is when earth will really get his come-uppance  
from earth

Remember, o man, that you are ashes  
And into ashes you will return

Earth is piled up on earth like dirt on dirt  
He who swans around the earth, glittering like gold  
As though earth won't really have to return to earth  
Will soon find earth indeed becoming earth again, no  
matter how much he tries to fight it

I really wonder why earth loves earth  
Or why earth should toil and work for earth's sake  
Because when earth is brought to the earth of his grave  
Earth back in the earth will stink to high heaven

Remember, o man, that you are ashes  
And into ashes you will return

Remember, o man, that you are ashes  
And into ashes you will return

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