

# Trans Siberian Orchestra "What Is Eternal"

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*[BEETHOVEN]*

AND HERE IN THE NIGHT  
AS I FEEL THE INFERNO  
I STARE IN THE DARK  
THINKING WHAT IS ETERNAL

THE MAN OR THE MOMENT  
THE ACT OR THE REASON  
THESE THOUGHTS FILL MY HEAD  
AS I CONTEMPLATE TREASON

OF DREAMS I HAVE HAD  
AND DREAMS I HAVE PONDERED  
WHEN LATE IN THE NIGHT  
MY MIND IT WOULD WANDER

TO THINGS I HAVE DONE  
AND THEN QUICKLY REGRETTED  
WHILE DENYING VICES  
MY LIFE HAD SELECTED

AND I THINK WHAT I'VE DONE  
OR HAVE YET TO BEGIN  
AND THE MAN I'VE BECOME  
AND THE MAN THAT I'VE BEEN

NOW CAUGHT IN A WALTZ  
WITH THE ETERNAL DANCER  
I'M COURTED BY DEATH  
BUT DEATH ISN'T THE ANSWER  
I SAY

ALL I WAS  
MEANT TO BE  
COULD I  
SUDDENLY  
JUST DECIDE  
NOT A THOUGHT  
WOULD SURVIVE  
COULD IT BE  
MY LIFE'S WORTH

ENDED THERE  
WITH MY BIRTH

IF I COULD SEE SOMEONE  
WHO'S BEEN THERE BEFORE ME  
AND TRADED HIS SOUL  
FOR A MOMENT OF GLORY

HIS PENANCE OR MERCY  
BY SPIRITS DEBATED  
WHILE JUDGED ON A SCALE  
THAT'S BEEN HEAVILY WEIGHTED

AND WHAT HAVE I DONE  
COULD THERE BE SUCH A SIN  
IN THIS MAN I'VE BECOME  
IN THIS MAN THAT I'VE BEEN

NOW CALLING TO GOD  
FROM THE PIT'S VERY BOTTOM  
I PRAY HE FORGIVES  
EVERY SIN I'VE FORGOTTEN  
THIS DAY

AND WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT  
THAT MY FATE IT WOULD CONJURE  
THIS TWIST IN THE ROAD  
ON WHICH I HAVE WANDERED

EACH VISION AND DREAM NOW  
COMPLETELY DISMEMBERED  
TO GIVE ONE'S WHOLE LIFE  
AND FIND NOTHING'S  
REMEMBERED

AND WHAT GOOD IS A LIFE  
THAT LEAVES NOTHING BEHIND  
NOT A THOUGHT OR A DREAM  
THAT MIGHT ECHO IN TIME  
THE YEARS AND THE HOURS  
THE SECONDS AND MINUTES  
AND EVERYTHING THAT  
MY LIFE HAS PLACED IN IT  
BETRAYED  
BETRAYED  
BETRAYED

THE THINGS I HAVE DONE  
THE PLACES I'VE BEEN  
THE COST OF MY DREAMS  
THE WEIGHT OF MY SINS

AND EVERYTHING THAT  
I'VE GATHERED IN LIFE  
COULD IT BE LOST  
COULD IT BE LOST IN THIS  
COULD IT BE LOST IN THIS  
NIGHT

*[Crushed by the dilemma he finds himself in and unable to reach a decision, Beethoven tries to recall the particular actions in his life that have led to his damnation. In anger, he confronts Fate for having dealt him such a cruel hand in life. Taken a back by his accusations, she offers to review his life with him and to change anything that he wishes to change.]*

*[Delighted with this unexpected proposition, Beethoven accepts. When she asks where he would like to start, Beethoven says the first thing he would change is his childhood. Fate takes him back through time where he finds himself as a young child sitting at a piano. He has just been cruelly slapped by a tutor for having failed to receive an appointment to the emperor's court. His tutor is trying to create a new child wonder, similar to Mozart, but unlike Mozart, Beethoven is an awkward and gangly youth. Now, sitting alone at the piano, he is trying to console himself by playing a melody that he finds soothing. Beethoven recognizes the melody as the future Sixth Symphony and sitting down next to the child completes the tune. The child smiles at this kindly adult and after they talk for awhile, asks if they might meet again and finish the song. Beethoven reassures the child that one day that just might possibly happen.]*

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