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Van Der Graaf Generator "The Emperor On His War-room I. The Emperor"

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Standing in the space that holds the silent lace of night away from you You think that you can hold the searing, molten gold between your fingers ... But it slips through, tearing tendons as it goes, exposing the white of a knuckle ... flesh-and-metal forming letters in the mould.

Cradling your gun, after choosing the ones you think should die -Lying on the hill ... crawling over the windowsill into your living-room They stare out, glass-eyed aimless heads, bodies torn by vultures .. you are the man whose hands are rank with the smell of death. Saviour of the Fallen, Protector of the Weak, Friend of the Tall Ones, Keeper of the Peace ... Ah, but it is the only way you know

Looking out to sea, a flattened plane of weeds which bear no living You crush life in your fist as your heart is kissed by the lips of death Ghosts betray you, ghosts betray you, in the night they steal your eye from its socket ... and the ball hangs fallen on your cheek. Complaining tongues are stilled

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