

The Dragon's Palace



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The Dragon's Palace
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for John Martone

The Dragon's Palace

I

*“Friends,
Take care*

*On your
Journey -*

*Dragon's inky
Stream loops*

*Cups a
Mystic ball*

*In the form
Of an eye -*

*Cursive is
Spirit writing*

*Starting
And stopping*

*Surrounded
By ghosts -*

*Yet bound
Somewhere*

*Our monster
Pens your life*

*'til ending
A sentence*

*Gobbles you
Up!"*

2

*“Love,
You supposed
I'd climb*

*Mountains -
Actually
I dove*

*Through
The sea -
You guessed*

*I'd fly
On sunlight
So I crept*

*Under cover
Of night -
Wind blows*

*And Stream
Loops,
Blossoms*

*Drop gold
On your path -
You pick one*

*Up, sniff
Its fragrance
I step out*

*Of shadows
For a kiss”*

3

“O’

Painter,

You know,

A dragon

Starts from

Empty space

Dabs

A single dot

And grows

A simple line

With a

Simple line

You can

Draw and

Give life to

Anything”

4

*Lurking
Inside*

*Your mind
Find a*

*Dragon
Of desire*

*She hisses
And roars*

*Slithers
Or flies*

*Leaps and
Climbs*

*For her
Den*

*Where
She sleeps*

*And wakes
Again*

*“Tell me
Stranger -*

*Quick
Or slow*

*Soft and
Loud*

*Great or
Small*

*Short
And long*

*I tickle
Your heart*

*Breathe
Your lungs*

*Waggle
Your tongue*

*And flutter
Your eyes,*

*Who
Am I?”*

*“Prospector,
If you*

*Cup the
Crystal*

*Orb
Found in*

*A far
Away*

*Cave,
As cool*

*And clear
As G-d -*

*Rub
In prayer*

*Then clasp
With love*

*You'll claim
Blessings*

*From
Above”*

*Child fears
Mother
Left him*

*No, she
Died
Of Plague*

*Child fears
Father
Will curse*

*And exile
Her; yes
He's cruel*

*Child must
Peer
Into his*

*Or her
Own soul
To see*

*Dragon's
Pearl of life,
Love*

*And light
Shimmering
There*

8

*In
Spring*

*She
Prayed*

*For
A son*

*On the
Mountain*

*And
Watched*

*A dragon
Sing*

*On its
Way*

*To
Heaven*

“Dragon King,

When just

Amounts

Of wind

Rain, soil

Sun and seed

Join in song

For flowers,

Dragonflies

And bees,

Lovers touch

Lips and

Finger-tips,

Babies open

Eyes and

Cry out

For Joy”

10

*“Farmer,
Each drop
Of rain’s
A dragon
And every
Dragon a
Drop washing
Your face,
Splashing
Puddles,
Hooray!”*

II

“O’
Sire,

You
Slump

Over,
Dream

Of
Glory -

Sun
Rises

And
With

It
Cap -

‘Crick
Crack,

Crick
Crack’

Climbs up
Your

Dragon’s
Back”

*“Old soul
Dragon King,*

*I dreamt of you
Last night -*

*Hissing and
Gaspings*

*A fearful
Shapelessness*

*Dark and
Everywhere*

*And in
Everyone -*

*Peace sought
But lost*

*Faith sworn
Soon fled*

*Yet a lady
Came for me*

*A sweet and
Shining sort*

*She smiled,
Clasped*

*My fingers
With a claw*

*And rasped,
‘We’ll shelter you,
My son’”*

13

*“Darling
Mother,
Please*

*Get
Ready -
Tonight*

*I, one
Swimming
Soul*

*Vie
To breach
Your*

*Shining
Egg
And gild*

*A palace
In your
Womb*

*For
Your baby
Dragon”*

14

*“Your
Dragon
Clouds*

*Poured
For days -
The loop*

*Of our street
Filled
With water*

*Yet we
Small children
Played*

*Rose deep
Enough to
Swim -*

*Waves climbed
Up curbs,
Thunder swore*

*And lightning
Cursed - we
Stayed”*

15

*“Young nun -
As you*

*Raise
Your arm*

*To pound
Upon*

*The Dragon’s
Drum,*

*I swoon
To drown*

*In those
Heavenly*

*Sounds
Dancing off*

*Your
Tongue”*

16

*“Beware
Fans,*

*Hip-hop
Dragon*

*Flaunts
Dread locks*

*Pink nails,
Ivory breasts*

*Gold hips,
Orange lips*

*And
Ruby eyes*

*Thump!
Thump!*

*Flap!
Flap!*

*Chump!
Chump!*

*Yum!
Yum!*

*Gobbles
Up!!!”*

*“Girl,
I’d
Love you*

*But you’d
Feel
Sorry-*

*I’m not
As I
Appear*

*So I
Appear
As what*

*I’m not
Like a
Flowerpot*

*That’s
An urn
You could*

*Give me
Yet I’d
Get guilty*

*I could
Take you and
You me*

*We’d become
A dragon,
Free!”*

18

*“Seeker,
Let’s*

*Blaze
A trail*

*Of notes
Playing*

*Dragon
Cave*

*Eagle’s
Nest*

*Mountain
Top -*

*Feathers
Glide*

*Down
And*

*River
Roars*

*Through
Gorge*

*Silencing
Our way”*

19

*“Old
Ma
Dragon*

*Loves
Ginseng,
I’m told*

*She buys
Your dreams
For silver*

*Sells ‘em
Back for
Gold”*

*“Doctor,
When Draco
Dances,*

*He goes
Mad
With joy”*

*“Nurse,
When Draco
Sings*

*He goes
Crazy
For love”*

*“Dear One,
When Draco
Dies,*

*He flies
About
Above”*

*“Sailor boys,
If you dare
Set off
Overseas
To pillage
Our shores -
Watch out!
Our dragons
Jump over
Sailing ships
And swing
Their tails -
Whirl and wing
Dance and
Sing while
Churning up
A storm!”*

*“Boy, spur
Your dragon
Nobly*

*Stir up
A joyful
Storm!*

*Girl, surf
Your dragon
Gracefully*

*Sound loud
The golden
Horn!”*

*“Saw you
Up on stars*

*Heard you
In a dream*

*Today
Hair’s pink*

*Tomorrow
It’ll turn gold*

*G-Dragon,
Yeah o’ yeah!*

*Our story
Shall be unfold!”*

24

*“Look up
And sing -*

*Big and blue,
Necking, too*

*Heavenly
Dragons*

*Congregate
On clouds*

*Overseeing
Our dear Earth”*

25

*“Our
Dragon’s
Trail*

*Winds
Between
Trees*

*Cherry
Blossoms
Fall*

*Temple’s
Bell
Sounds*

*Just for
A moment
Stay”*

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