

**Track 66: Section 5, lines 842 to end**

And Savitri looked on Death and answered not.

845 Almost it seemed as if in his symbol shape  
The world's darkness had consented to Heaven-light  
And God needed no more the Inconscient's screen.

A mighty transformation came on her.

850 A halo of the indwelling Deity,  
The Immortal's lustre that had lit her face  
And tented its radiance in her body's house,  
Overflowing made the air a luminous sea.

In a flaming moment of apocalypse  
The Incarnation thrust aside its veil.

855 A little figure in infinity  
Yet stood and seemed the Eternal's very house,  
As if the world's centre was her very soul  
And all wide space was but its outer robe.

860 A curve of the calm hauteur of far heaven  
Descending into earth's humility,  
Her forehead's span vaulted the Omniscient's gaze,  
Her eyes were two stars that watched the universe.

865 The Power that from her being's summit reigned,  
The Presence chambered in lotus secrecy,  
Came down and held the centre in her brow  
Where the mind's Lord in his control-room sits;  
There throned on concentration's native seat  
He opens that third mysterious eye in man,  
The Unseen's eye that looks at the unseen,  
When Light with a golden ecstasy fills his brain  
870 And the Eternal's wisdom drives his choice  
And eternal Will seizes the mortal's will.

It stirred in the lotus of her throat of song,  
And in her speech throbbed the immortal Word,  
Her life sounded with the steps of the world-soul  
Moving in harmony with the cosmic Thought.

875 As glides God's sun into the mystic cave  
Where hides his light from the pursuing gods,  
It glided into the lotus of her heart  
And woke in it the Force that alters Fate.

880 It poured into her navel's lotus depth,  
Lodged in the little life-nature's narrow home,  
On the body's longings grew heaven-rapture's flower  
And made desire a pure celestial flame,  
Broke into the cave where coiled World-Energy sleeps  
885 And smote the thousand-hooded serpent Force  
That blazing towered and clasped the World-Self above,  
Joined Matter's dumbness to the Spirit's hush  
And filled earth's acts with the Spirit's silent power.

Thus changed she waited for the Word to speak.

890 Eternity looked into the eyes of Death  
And Darkness saw God's living Reality.

Then a Voice was heard that seemed the stillness' self  
Or the low calm utterance of infinity  
When it speaks to the silence in the heart of sleep.

895 "I hail thee, almighty and victorious Death,  
Thou grandiose Darkness of the Infinite.

O Void that makest room for all to be,  
Hunger that gnawest at the universe  
Consuming the cold remnants of the suns  
And eatst the whole world with thy jaws of fire,  
900 Waster of the energy that has made the stars,  
Inconscience, carrier of the seeds of thought,  
Nescience in which All-Knowledge sleeps entombed  
And slowly emerges in its hollow breast  
Wearing the mind's mask of bright Ignorance.

905 Thou art my shadow and my instrument.

I have given thee thy awful shape of dread  
And thy sharp sword of terror and grief and pain  
To force the soul of man to struggle for light  
On the brevity of his half-conscious days.

910 Thou art his spur to greatness in his works,  
The whip to his yearning for eternal bliss,  
His poignant need of immortality.

Live, Death, awhile, be still my instrument.

915 One day man too shall know thy fathomless heart  
Of silence and the brooding peace of Night  
And grave obedience to eternal Law  
And the calm inflexible pity in thy gaze.

But now, O timeless Mightiness, stand aside  
And leave the path of my incarnate Force.

920 Relieve the radiant God from thy black mask:  
Release the soul of the world called Satyavan  
Freed from thy clutch of pain and ignorance  
That he may stand master of life and fate,  
Man's representative in the house of God,  
925 The mate of Wisdom and the spouse of Light,  
The eternal bridegroom of the eternal bride."

She spoke; Death unconvinced resisted still,  
Although he knew refusing still to know,  
Although he saw refusing still to see.

930 Unshakable he stood claiming his right.

His spirit bowed; his will obeyed the law  
Of its own nature binding even on Gods.

The Two opposed each other face to face.

935 His being like a huge fort of darkness towered;  
Around it her light grew, an ocean's siege.

Awhile the Shade survived defying heaven:  
Assailing in front, oppressing from above,  
A concrete mass of conscious power, he bore  
The tyranny of her divine desire.

940 A pressure of intolerable force

Weighed on his unbowed head and stubborn breast;  
Light like a burning tongue licked up his thoughts,  
Light was a luminous torture in his heart,  
Light coursed, a splendid agony, through his nerves;  
945 His darkness muttered perishing in her blaze.

Her mastering Word commanded every limb  
And left no room for his enormous will  
That seemed pushed out into some helpless space  
And could no more re-enter but left him void.

950 He called to Night but she fell shuddering back,  
He called to Hell but sullenly it retired:  
He turned to the Inconscient for support,  
From which he was born, his vast sustaining self;  
It drew him back towards boundless vacancy  
955 As if by himself to swallow up himself:  
He called to his strength, but it refused his call.

His body was eaten by light, his spirit devoured.

At last he knew defeat inevitable  
And left crumbling the shape that he had worn,  
960 Abandoning hope to make man's soul his prey  
And force to be mortal the immortal spirit.

Afar he fled shunning her dreaded touch  
And refuge took in the retreating Night.

In the dream twilight of that symbol world  
965 The dire universal Shadow disappeared  
Vanishing into the Void from which it came.

As if deprived of its original cause,  
The twilight realm passed fading from their souls,  
And Satyavan and Savitri were alone.

970 But neither stirred: between those figures rose  
A mute invisible and translucent wall.

In the long blank moment's pause nothing could move:  
All waited on the unknown inscrutable Will.

**End of Canto Four**