

**Track 30: Section 1, lines 1 to 255**

At first out of the busy hum of mind  
As if from a loud thronged market into a cave  
By an inward moment's magic she had come.  
A stark hushed emptiness became her self:  
5 Her mind unvisited by the voice of thought  
Stared at a void deep's dumb infinity.  
Her heights receded, her depths behind her closed;  
All fled away from her and left her blank.  
But when she came back to her self of thought,  
10 Once more she was a human thing on earth,  
A lump of Matter, a house of closed sight,  
A mind compelled to think out ignorance,  
A life-force pressed into a camp of works  
And the material world her limiting field.  
15 Amazed like one unknowing she sought her way  
Out of the tangle of man's ignorant past  
That took the surface person for the soul.  
Then a Voice spoke that dwelt on secret heights:  
"For man thou seekst, not for thyself alone."  
20 Only if God assumes the human mind  
And puts on mortal ignorance for his cloak  
And makes himself the Dwarf with triple stride,  
Can he help man to grow into the God.  
As man disguised the cosmic Greatness works  
25 And finds the mystic inaccessible gate  
And opens the Immortal's golden door.  
Man, human, follows in God's human steps.  
Accepting his darkness thou must bring to him light,  
Accepting his sorrow thou must bring to him bliss.  
30 In Matter's body find thy heaven-born soul."  
Then Savitri surged out of her body's wall  
And stood a little span outside herself  
And looked into her subtle being's depths  
And in its heart as in a lotus-bud  
35 Divined her secret and mysterious soul.  
At the dim portal of the inner life  
That bars out from our depths the body's mind  
And all that lives but by the body's breath,  
She knocked and pressed against the ebony gate.  
40 The living portal groaned with sullen hinge:  
Heavily reluctant it complained inert  
Against the tyranny of the spirit's touch.  
A formidable voice cried from within:  
"Back, creature of earth, lest tortured and torn thou die."  
45 A dreadful murmur rose like a dim sea;  
The Serpent of the threshold hissing rose,  
A fatal guardian hood with monstrous coils,

The hounds of darkness growled with jaws agape,  
And trolls and gnomes and goblins scowled and stared  
50 And wild beast roarings thrilled the blood with fear  
And menace muttered in a dangerous tongue.

Unshaken her will pressed on the rigid bars:  
The gate swung wide with a protesting jar,  
The opponent Powers withdrew their dreadful guard;  
55 Her being entered into the inner worlds.

In a narrow passage, the subconscious's gate,  
She breathed with difficulty and pain and strove  
To find the inner self concealed in sense.

Into a dense of subtle Matter packed,  
60 A cavity filled with a blind mass of power,  
An opposition of misleading gleams,  
A heavy barrier of unseeing sight,  
She forced her way through body to the soul.

Across a perilous border line she passed  
65 Where Life dips into the subconscious dusk  
Or struggles from Matter into chaos of mind,  
Aswarm with elemental entities  
And fluttering shapes of vague half-bodied thought  
And crude beginnings of incontinent force.

70 At first a difficult narrowness was there,  
A press of uncertain powers and drifting wills;  
For all was there but nothing in its place.

At times an opening came, a door was forced;  
She crossed through spaces of a secret self  
75 And trod in passages of inner Time.

At last she broke into a form of things,  
A start of finiteness, a world of sense:  
But all was still confused, nothing self-found.  
Soul was not there but only cries of life.

80 A thronged and clamorous air environed her.  
A horde of sounds defied significance,  
A dissonant clash of cries and contrary calls;  
A mob of visions broke across the sight,  
A jostled sequence lacking sense and suite,  
85 Feelings pushed through a packed and burdened heart,  
Each forced its separate inconsequent way  
But cared for nothing but its ego's drive.

A rally without key of common will,  
Thought stared at thought and pulled at the taut brain  
90 As if to pluck the reason from its seat  
And cast its corpse into life's wayside drain;  
So might forgotten lie in Nature's mud  
Abandoned the slain sentinel of the soul.

So could life's power shake from it mind's rule,  
95 Nature renounce the spirit's government  
And the bare elemental energies

Make of the sense a glory of boundless joy,  
A splendour of ecstatic anarchy,  
A revel mighty and mad of utter bliss.

100 This was the sense's instinct void of soul  
Or when the soul sleeps hidden void of power,  
But now the vital godhead wakes within  
And lifts the life with the Supernal's touch.

105 But how shall come the glory and the flame  
If mind is cast away into the abyss?  
For body without mind has not the light,  
The rapture of spirit sense, the joy of life;  
All then becomes subconscious, tenebrous,  
Inconscience puts its seal on Nature's page

110 Or else a mad disorder whirls the brain  
Posting along a ravaged nature's roads,  
A chaos of disordered impulses  
In which no light can come, no joy, no peace.

This state now threatened, this she pushed from her.

115 As if in a long endless tossing street  
One driven mid a trampling hurrying crowd  
Hour after hour she trod without release  
Holding by her will the senseless meute at bay;  
Out of the dreadful press she dragged her will

120 And fixed her thought upon the saviour Name;  
Then all grew still and empty; she was free.

A large deliverance came, a vast calm space.  
Awhile she moved through a blank tranquillity  
Of naked Light from an invisible sun,

125 A void that was a bodiless happiness,  
A blissful vacuum of nameless peace.

But now a mightier danger's front drew near:  
The press of bodily mind, the Inconscient's brood  
Of aimless thought and will had fallen from her.

130 Approaching loomed a giant head of Life  
Ungoverned by mind or soul, subconscious, vast.

It tossed all power into a single drive,  
It made its power a might of dangerous seas.  
Into the stillness of her silent self,

135 Into the whiteness of its muse of Space  
A spate, a torrent of the speed of Life  
Broke like a wind-lashed driven mob of waves  
Racing on a pale floor of summer sand;  
It drowned its banks, a mountain of climbing waves.

140 Enormous was its vast and passionate voice.  
It cried to her listening spirit as it ran,  
Demanding God's submission to chainless Force.

A deaf force calling to a status dumb,  
A thousand voices in a muted Vast,

145 It claimed the heart's support for its clutch at joy,  
For its need to act the witness Soul's consent,  
For its lust of power her neutral being's seal.  
Into the wideness of her watching self  
It brought a grandiose gust of the Breath of Life;  
150 Its torrent carried the world's hopes and fears,  
All life's, all Nature's dissatisfied hungry cry,  
And the longing all eternity cannot fill.  
It called to the mountain secrecies of the soul  
And the miracle of the never-dying fire,  
155 It spoke to some first inexpressible ecstasy  
Hidden in the creative beat of Life;  
Out of the nether unseen deeps it tore  
Its lure and magic of disordered bliss,  
Into earth-light poured its maze of tangled charm  
160 And heady draught of Nature's primitive joy  
And the fire and mystery of forbidden delight  
Drunk from the world-libido's bottomless well,  
And the honey-sweet poison-wine of lust and death,  
But dreamed a vintage of glory of life's gods,  
165 And felt as celestial rapture's golden sting.  
The cycles of the infinity of desire  
And the mystique that made an unrealised world  
Wider than the known and closer than the unknown  
In which hunt for ever the hounds of mind and life,  
170 Tempted a deep dissatisfied urge within  
To long for the unfulfilled and ever far  
And make this life upon a limiting earth  
A climb towards summits vanishing in the void,  
A search for the glory of the impossible.  
175 It dreamed of that which never has been known,  
It grasped at that which never has been won,  
It chased into an Elysian memory  
The charms that flee from the heart's soon lost delight;  
It dared the force that slays, the joys that hurt,  
180 The imaged shape of unaccomplished things  
And the summons to a Circean transmuting dance  
And passion's tenancy of the courts of love  
And the wild Beast's ramp and romp with Beauty and Life.  
It brought its cry and surge of opposite powers,  
185 Its moments of the touch of luminous planes,  
Its flame-ascensions and sky-pitched vast attempts,  
Its fiery towers of dream built on the winds,  
Its sinkings towards the darkness and the abyss,  
Its honey of tenderness, its sharp wine of hate,  
190 Its changes of sun and cloud, of laughter and tears,  
Its bottomless danger-pits and swallowing gulfs,  
Its fear and joy and ecstasy and despair,  
Its occult wizardries, its simple lines  
And great communions and uplifting moves,  
195 Its faith in heaven, its intercourse with hell.

These powers were not blunt with the dead weight of earth,  
They gave ambrosia's taste and poison's sting.  
There was an ardour in the gaze of Life  
That saw heaven blue in the grey air of Night:  
200 The impulses godward soared on passion's wings.  
Mind's quick-paced thoughts floated from their high necks,  
A glowing splendour as of an irised mane,  
A parure of pure intuition's light;  
Its flame-foot gallop they could imitate:  
205 Mind's voices mimicked inspiration's stress,  
Its ictus of infallibility,  
Its speed and lightning heaven-leap of the Gods.  
A trenchant blade that shore the nets of doubt,  
Its sword of discernment seemed almost divine.  
210 Yet all that knowledge was a borrowed sun's;  
The forms that came were not heaven's native births:  
An inner voice could speak the unreal's Word;  
Its puissance dangerous and absolute  
Could mingle poison with the wine of God.  
215 On these high shining backs falsehood could ride;  
Truth lay with delight in error's passionate arms  
Gliding downstream in a blithe gilded barge:  
She edged her ray with a magnificent lie.  
Here in Life's nether realms all contraries meet;  
220 Truth stares and does her works with bandaged eyes  
And Ignorance is Wisdom's patron here:  
Those galloping hooves in their enthusiast speed  
Could bear to a dangerous intermediate zone  
Where Death walks wearing a robe of deathless Life.  
225 Or they enter the valley of the wandering Gleam  
Whence, captives or victims of the specious Ray,  
Souls trapped in that region never can escape.  
Agents, not masters, they serve Life's desires  
Toiling for ever in the snare of Time.  
230 Their bodies born out of some Nihil's womb  
Ensnare the spirit in the moment's dreams,  
Then perish vomiting the immortal soul  
Out of Matter's belly into the sink of Nought.  
Yet some uncaught, unslain, can warily pass  
235 Carrying Truth's image in the sheltered heart,  
Pluck Knowledge out of error's screening grip,  
Break paths through the blind walls of little self,  
Then travel on to reach a greater life.  
All this streamed past her and seemed to her vision's sight  
240 As if around a high and voiceless isle  
A clamour of waters from far unknown hills  
Swallowed its narrow banks in crowding waves  
And made a hungry world of white wild foam:  
Hastening, a dragon with a million feet,

245 Its foam and cry a drunken giant's din,  
Tossing a mane of Darkness into God's sky,  
It ebbed receding into a distant roar.  
Then smiled again a large and tranquil air:  
Blue heaven, green earth, partners of Beauty's reign,  
250 Lived as of old, companions in happiness;  
And in the world's heart laughed the joy of life.  
All now was still, the soil shone dry and pure.  
Through it all she moved not, plunged not in the vain waves.  
Out of the vastness of the silent self  
255 Life's clamour fled; her spirit was mute and free.