

Collyrium of the Sun

I was the blind bird of the night-forest.
The companion of my secret, the alien wind.
When the burden of night poured on my wings
I only wished for death, in sleep.

The sun's blossoms never
Pierced the leaves to reach me.
The crystal scent-jar of the moon
Sprinkled no light on me.

I was the blind bird of the night-forest,
Far away from the shimmering stars.
Darkness covered my blinded eyes
Dark were the lanterns of the passers-by.

I was the blind bird of the night-forest.
Winter was forever in my heart.
Autumn colors or summer shades
Appeared the same to my eyes.

Like wet timber I smoldered.
The smoke rose to my artless eyes.
As the fire of the sunset died,
My head under my wings, I sighed.



One night the wind hammered its hooves
And fire poured from its mane!
One night like showers of stones
Thunder roared a thousand times!

That night through the darkness thick
A hand crept into my nest!
From the quiver of my flesh
My dwelling shuddered and shook!

Suddenly the heat of the fingers,
Like flames, burnt my wings!
When the hand slithered over me
Suddenly my heart ceased to beat!



O, but the white dawn of this hand
Was the sun and the warmth of fire.
A collyrium meant to open my eyes
Yes, this hand meant to embrace.

Since then on dark moonless nights
I no longer press a sorrowful beak in mud.
Since the ray of desire shone on my heart
I no longer weep for dawn.

This warm hand was your hand, O Love,
Your hand of everlasting fire.
I was the blind bird of the night-forest
The collyrium of the sun gave me sight.

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Collyrium is an ancient eye-salve meant to cure eye ailments and restore eyesight.