

# Cradle of Filth, li. Paradise Lost: Better To Reign

&lt;Heart in hand passed clasp of pain  
In dark lowland that set bad blood in veins  
Burning, like penal fires roused to strain  
The jagged-toothed skyline braced with crosses

The golden dawn  
Lay lost to mist where  
Emboldened thorns  
Made their bed with toppled stones

He closed His eyes  
Sunken to dream there  
Of crow-black skies  
And a great white empty throne  
Horror stalked the bilious fogs  
That balked his visions

He licked the spittle from the cheeks of the wry  
And drifted back to when His stung its target  
The sneer of Michael on a glorious high  
Of angel dust and Virtue by his side

Drowning in the past  
That downfall seemed like yesterday  
Though blurred moons passed  
As enemies in high places laughed

Moved to mirrors cracked with heavy lines  
He rose snowblind, through shifting sands of time  
Erased the trace and taste of bitter wines  
The grapes of wrath grew fat on the vine

She came to Him  
A little whip of tantrums  
Thrashed on velvet skins  
That lines Her wishbone Henge

Her name was Sin  
A warming spurt of mantras  
Splashed on occult tongues  
That whispered sweet revenge

For the shame of their crawl from grace  
Cold and hollow as the grave

And for a rape and ruinous scourge  
Spared for souls that shared God's worship  
For now their throats coated notes with dirge  
That poured from parapets to the pits below

Drowning in the past  
A wretched scream like yesterday  
Died at last  
With the rising of the revenant dark

All sharpened claws and blunt discharge

&quot;I shall bow no more to the dogs of the Lord  
Tearing at my carcass heart  
I shall fall to my knees only at the keyholes  
Of Virtue slipping into bondage masks...  
Freewill made me better to reign in hell&quot;

And with new wings

Unfurled and spoken  
He took to things  
That would desecrate the world

The seduction of both woman and man  
For a bastard masterplan

Drowning out the past  
Fool Fates unwound cruel yesterdays  
beneath the stars  
That staggered from the blast&gt;