

# Behemoth, Before Aeons Came

( music by Nergal; lyrics by Ch. Swinburne )

before the beginning of years  
there came to the making of man  
time, with a gift of tears  
grief, with a glass that ran

pleasure, with pain for leaven  
summer, with flowers that fell  
remembrance fallen from heaven  
and madness risen from hell

strength without hands to smite  
love that endures for a breath  
night the shadow of light  
and life the shadow of death.

and the high gods took in hand  
fire an the falling of tears  
and a measure of sliding sand  
from under the feet of the years

and froth and drift of the sea  
and dust of the laboring earth  
and bodies of things to be  
in the houses of death and of birth

and wrought with weeping and laughter  
and fashioned with loathing and love  
with life before and after  
and death beneath and above

[these lyrics are extractions from &quot;Atlanta in Calydon&quot; written by Algernon Charles Swinburne]