

# Lou Reed, A Wild Being From Birth

Rowena :

A wild being from birth  
My spirit spurns control  
Wondering the wide earth searching for my soul  
While all the world is chiding  
In visions of the dark night  
I have had a waking dream  
A holy dream  
A holy dream  
A waking dream of life and light  
That cheered me as a lovely beam  
A lonely spirit guiding  
With a ray turned back upon the past

While I aghast  
Sit motionless through the misty night  
Dimly peering at what once shone bright  
Peeking wary at what shone afar  
What could there be more purely bright  
In Truth's day-star?

Poe :

In the consideration of the faculties  
And impulses of the human soul  
In consideration of our arrogance  
Our radical, primitive, irreducible arrogance of reason  
We have all overlooked the propensity  
We saw no need for it  
The paradoxical something which we may call perverseness  
A mobile without motive  
Through its promptings, we act without comprehensible object  
Induction would have brought phrenology to admit this  
We act for the reason we should not  
For certain minds this is absolutely irresistible  
The conviction of the wrong or impolicy of an action  
Is often the unconquerable force  
It is a primitive impulse  
Elementary  
The overwhelming tendency to do  
Wrong for the wrong's sake  
This impels us to its persecutions  
Oh holy dream  
We persist in acts  
Because we feel that we should not persist in them  
This is the combativeness of phrenology

Rowena :

We have a task before us which must be speedily performed  
We know it will be ruinous to delay  
Trumpet-tongued, the important crisis of our life calls  
We glow

Poe :

We are consumed with eagerness to commence work  
Yet a shadow flits across the brain  
The impulse increases to a wish  
The wish to a desire  
The desire to uncontrollable longing  
And the longing in defiance of all consequences is indulged  
We put off all until tomorrow

Rowena :

We tremble with the violence of the conflict within us  
The definite with the indefinite

The substance with the shadow  
There is no answer except that we feel perverse  
The shadow prevails  
Our energy returns  
We will commit now  
We will labor now  
Oh holiest of dreams  
But it is too late  
We stand upon the brink of the precipice

Poe :

We grow sick and dizzy  
We go to shrink from danger but instead we approach it  
We are intoxicated by the mere idea  
Of a fall from such a great height  
This fall, this rushing annihilation  
For the very reason  
It contains the most loathsome and ghastly images  
Of death and suffering  
For this reason do we now most impetuously desire it  
There is no passion in nature  
So demonic as the passion of him who  
Shuddering upon the edge, meditates a plunge  
We will these actions merely  
Because we feel that we should not  
Having realized this, I swoon  
It is the spirit of the perverse  
The idea of a poison candle struck my fancy  
And I procured one for my victim  
I will not vex you with impertinent details  
But suffice it to say the verdict was  
&quot;Death by the visitation of God&quot;

Rowena :

All went well for me

Poe :

All went well for me

Rowena :

His estate inherited  
I reveled in absolute security  
I would never be found out  
I was safe  
I was safe  
If I did not prove fool enough to make open confession

Poe :

If I did not prove fool enough to make public confession  
No sooner had I uttered those words  
Than I felt an icy chill creep into my heart  
I made a strong effort  
To shake off this nightmare of the soul  
I laughed  
I whistled  
I walked and then walked faster  
I thought I saw a formless shape approaching me from behind  
And then I ran  
I pushed and shoved blindly  
I thought I left a hand upon my throat  
No mortal hand  
I screamed  
And then clearly, clearly  
I enunciated pregnant sentences  
That consigned me to the hangman and the hell

The fullest judicial conviction  
Today I wear chains but tomorrow I shall be fetterless  
But where?  
Oh holy dream  
Oh beam of light  
I fall prostrate with excitement this holy night