

## THE EYES OF PHARAOH.

DEAD Pharaoh's eyes from out the tomb  
Burned like twin planets ruby-red.  
Enswathed, enthroned, the halls of gloom  
Echo the agony of the dead.

Silent and stark the Pharaoh sate :  
No breath went whispering, hushed or scared.  
Only that red incarnate hate  
Through pylon after pylon flared.

As in the blood of murdered things  
The affrighted augur shaking skries  
Earthquake and ruinous fate of kings,  
Famine and desperate destinies,

So in the eyes of Pharaoh shone  
The hate and loathing that compel  
In death each damned minion  
Of Set, the accursed lord of Hell.

Yea! in those globes of fire there sate  
Some cruel knowledge closely curled  
Like serpents in those halls of hate,  
Palaces of the Underworld.

But in the hell-glow of those eyes  
The ashen skull of Pharaoh shone  
White as the moonrays that surprise  
The invoking Druse on Lebanon.

Moreover pylon shouldered round  
To pylon an unearthly tune,  
Like phantom priests that strike and sound  
Sinister sistrons at the moon.

And death's insufferable perfume  
Beat the black air with golden fans  
As Turkis rip a Nubian's womb  
With damascenéd yataghans.

Also the taste of dust long dead  
Of ancient queens corrupt and fair  
Struck through the temple, subtly sped  
By demons dominant of the air.

Last, on the flesh there came a touch  
Like sucking mouths and stroking hands  
That laid their foul alluring smutch  
Even to the blood's mad sarabands.

So did the neophyte that would gaze  
Into dead Pharaoh's awful eyes  
Start from incalculable amaze  
To clutch the initiate's place and prize.

He bore the blistering thought aloft :  
It blazed in battle on his plume :  
With sage and warrior enfeoffed,  
He rushed alone through tower and tomb.

The myriad men, the cohorts armed,  
Are shred like husks : the ensanguine brand  
Leaps like a flame, a flame enchanted  
To fire the pyramid heaven-spanned

Wherein dead Pharaoh sits and stares  
Swathed in the wrappings of the tomb,  
With eyes whose horror flits and flares  
Like corpse-lights glimmering in the gloom,

Till all's a blaze, one roar of flame,  
Death universal, locked and linked :—  
Aha! one names the awful Name—  
The twin red planets are extinct.