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## Upon a Moment of Reflection

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## Upon a Moment of Reflection

Once all the lights have faded,  
And the troubadours have fallen silent,  
The winter wind carries the dust away...  
And you find yourself alone.

You remove your mighty breastplate  
Velvet cloak, and regal plumes.  
Embracing the night-  
In a naked shudder.

Free at last...  
To bleat the colors of your emotions,  
To purge the afflictions of mind and soul,  
To stare into the eyes of folly.

And upon a moment of reflection  
Even the brave king's visage clouds.  
And gazing deep into the puddle of truth,  
You see only a man.

And you curse the light,  
And curse your crown,  
And curse word and deed  
And the shadow you stand in.

In the monochromatic clarity of the night,  
The stars and the moon and Heaven above  
Laugh with you at the ruse  
You have insulated from yourself.

All pleasure has brought you hurt,  
All love has disappointed.  
The lights and the songs of passion  
Betray your very heart.

And in that cold reality  
You see that a man would be a fool,  
To betray himself so  
For a fleeting taste of life.

And when the laughter fades into the echo of night,  
You gather your regal things.  
Leaving the man behind,  
Returning to the lights...

*T.A. Dwelle, '97*