

7-15-2008

Vision Quest

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Recommended Citation

Sparenberg, David (2008) "*Vision Quest*," *The Mythic Circle*: Vol. 2008 : Iss. 30 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mcircle/vol2008/iss30/9>

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien
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“Behold: Tammuz has eaten the bread of Sheol.
Tammuz has tasted the food of the dead.
“Tammuz has drunk the wine of the underworld.
He has drunk the draught of death.
He has tasted of the cup of Sheol.
Bound is he to Sheol’s realm.”

Mighty El bowed to Sheol.
The Lord of All was bound to his oath.
Mighty El bowed to Ashtart.
The Judge of All was bound to Justice.
Mighty El delivered his verdict:
Demanded that Sheol yield up fair Tammuz,
Once again to walk in the sun,
Once again to Ashtart’s caresses;

Demanded that Sheol’s claim be honored,
That Ashtart yield up Tammuz,
Once again to walk in Darkness,
Once again to Sheol’s embraces.
For half the year with the Queen of Heaven;
For half the year with the Queen of the Dead.

Thus upon earth came its seasons.
Thus the anemone blooms ever in springtime.
Thus half the year is dry and sere
and void of promise.
And Tammuz ever is loved by each goddess.
Each in her passion
Looks on him and Loves him
. . . and calls him *Adonai*.

VISION QUEST

by
David Sparenberg

Shekhinah
maiden of midnight
mothering side
of the God of life
descend now
to this troubled heart
this garden soul
lift me
as if on eagles’ wings
to wear the fiery
robes of lightning

let me thunder roll

let me sit
in luminal darkness
meditating prayers
in the shapes of light
let me dream
dream beneath the breathing
rainbow
of your love.

There is a place
that place is nowhere
and a time
pierced by eternity
known to pilgrims
as the rest of God.
There
the man of roads and
child of his returning
bow together
in everlasting peace.