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## *Vision of a Totemic Archetype*

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“Thus is vengeance served for a soul lost.  
And knowledge never meant for mortals is  
yours no longer.”

Then, in the dream-guise of Johannes  
Faustus that had, for so long, haunted  
Ansgar’s childhood, the devil vanished.

While upon the cold stone of the  
chambers floor Ansgar Faustus, devil’s fool,  
wept.

I am forty years old and my heart has  
withered in my breast, choked by boundless  
grief. I can no longer stand the thought of  
what I have done. My life has been a futile,  
pathetic thing, my days stolen and murdered.  
As I stare down at the icy blue waters of the

sea so far below, I long for nothing more  
than an ending.

I step from the edge of my rocky perch  
and the hungry wind rushes to greet me. I  
am not screaming, am not afraid at all. I  
wonder though, if a life spent in the pursuit  
of something truly good, is enough to  
outweigh a single, grievous wrong. Will the  
eyes of Heaven recognize a fool?

As the waters of the sea beckon me on, I  
realize it matters little. It would be nice to  
see my father, my real father, but there are  
things I long to say to the poet as well. As I  
strike the water and the world goes black, I  
cannot decide which I hope for more.

### VISION OF A TOTEMIC ARCHETYPE

by David Sparenberg

man has the  
face  
of an evil bird  
bird has the  
face  
of a man  
dragon has the  
face  
of both man and bird  
dragon  
is good and evil

man has his  
hands  
transcendent  
bird has its  
wings  
dragon has both  
hands  
and wings  
dragon  
is both good and evil

man  
has his  
man-heart  
for dreaming  
bird has its  
bird-heart  
for flight  
dragon  
has two  
hearts in one  
(soul  
is a state of  
seeing)  
man  
is both good  
and evil