

7-15-2002

The Lion and the Whale

Joey Madia

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Recommended Citation

Madia, Joey (2002) "*The Lion and the Whale*," *The Mythic Circle*: Vol. 2002 : Iss. 25 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mcircle/vol2002/iss25/9>

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien
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The Lion and the Whale

by Joey Madia

It has begun.
The frozen beast has thawed.
Crystal in its stance, evil in its Wants,
it calls its sleeping children:
adder creeping, lion waking.

In the mindgrave, repulsed dragons
tip the scales toward an angry, sullen spite.
Traps are laid for the would-be trappers,
the new walkers,
proud-thought thinkers.

In the panther's stomach
the red whale seeks rebirth in Jonah's weak breathing.
The drums of his labor pains remind me of my own sharp change.

It has begun.
Simple considerations have given way
to the black dog of constant worry.
Something isn't right
and may never be again.

It has begun.
Half familiar dream-launched echoes
of an unknown fake frontier
seek the ears of the blessedly questing soul,
so secure in its search for grails tarnished by Megiddo's ash-
shrapnel-tongued and smelling of dung,
it is history and belief and cannot be discounted even so.

It has begun.
Upon its awakening, the leaking sun scorns the seeker's opened eye
and makes of tears a baptismal rite.

Do not seek cheap supper under combined flags-
that is the lesson of a drowning Camelot.

Enter the new era-
the time of the lion and the whale.
The age of Open Eyes.