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Magnetic Country

C. S. Thompson

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Additional Keywords

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MAGNETIC COUNTRY

C.S. Thompson

1.

They say that rock is magnetized,
Perhaps it walks by night.
And all around, archaic eyes
Don't see the sun, or watch it rise,
They know no Father Light.

2.

They shake their heads and stamp their feet
And gnash their teeth, entranced.
Then sleep in holes to which they run
Before the rising of the sun
Illuminates their dance.

3.

And on the hills, green dwarven beings
With oceanic eyes
Wear crowns they made of fallen leaves
While berry-wreaths adorn their sleeves,
And these are magnetized.

4.

That pile of rocks is not the same
As others you have known—
For lonely, old and eager lords
Who only wish to be adored
Inhabit every stone.

5.

And things with wings, grey goblin kings
And potentates are here,
Invisible but shining bright
With every kind of lucid light
Delectable and clear.

6.

Magnetic beasts, whose revels make
Thin music in the trees.
The sound of drums beyond a hill,
A flute, a sound both high and shrill—
But no one ever sees.

7.

They have no care, they live on air,
These powers of the dirt.
They drink the liquid from the light
That falls upon the hills at night
From stars above the earth.

8.

They make their palaces of dew
And drink a silver beer.
Some hide below, some ride above,
And there are some that live on love,
And some that live on fear.

9.

The cat that once had gone away,
Here sings its evil song
The song that says "Now come with me
And I will give you kisses three."
And then a child is gone.

10.

And in the trees, the glowing dead
Are spirit-balls of light
They have a joke they love to play
They lead a person far away
And drown them in the night.

11.

Beneath a lake there is a queen—
A king is made of stone—
And in the night the shining ones
Make war beneath the million suns
That glow beneath the moon.

12.

So flap your arms! And gnash your teeth!
And be a kind of king!
And roll your eyes! And watch the skies!
Expect a reckoning!

— C.S. Thompson