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ENG 406

Flash Story

When first he had heard the Word, surrounded by images of the saints and the angels, he swore his devotion to the Lord. When he learned of the return in the dim repositories and humble abbeys, he swore he would make himself ready to receive Him. When he had purified himself with the Book, the sermon and the scourge, he felt his mind ready. When he had purified his body by scorning the poisons of the flesh, he felt the Lord would see him as worthy. When the Lord didn't return, he swore to make the world ready.

When he preached the word with all his zeal and fervor, the people did not heed his words. When he delivered them to the relics at his battered body's expense, the people did not heed what they saw. When he brought the Lord's judgment with sword and torch, they did not heed his actions. When finally he loomed tireless over their lives like the flaming brand of the Lord, they heeded his punishments. When the Lord still did not return, he set out to meet Him.

When he brought his retribution upon the heathen Muslim's, he purged their homes with righteous flame. When he trudged through the slain throngs, he baptized the land in blood. When he pounded down the very gates of Jerusalem, he fell to his knees, body shattered and pierced. When he looked upon the Hell he had created, he smiled and thought it the very image of the rapture. And when the Lord still failed to present himself,

a wrath unlike any other engulfed him, and there in the Holy City he cursed the Lord as the darkness fell upon him.

All of my days I have served you without question. I have denied myself every pleasure and performed every horror so you would let me look upon you. I have crossed the world, and passed through Hell itself and still you refuse to show yourself. I, who have given everything, even my very life, to bring honor and glory to your name. Never once did I think of myself in this, never once did I turn my back on your will. He was a liar who told me of your benevolence and mercy. All of my days I worshipped without question, only to curse you with my last breath.