Chapter 49. “In Imitation of the Ancients”

In imitation of the ancients, poem 6 of 12

Solstice. The turning quickens, Heaven and Earth shut down. Barbarian winds chase the flying mists. A hundred grasses die under this winter moon, and the sun’s six dragons languish in the barrens of the west. The war planet rises in the eastern quarter, a comet drags its ghost filaments of light. Barbarian chieftains strut like cocks, far from their native roosts. Eagles and dogs would be lord and king, racing to become dragon and seize the phoenix throne. The Northern Dipper isn’t pouring wine, the Southern Winnowing Basket is now empty of grain.407

擬古 十二首其六

運速天地閉·胡風結飛霜
百草死冬月·六龍頹西荒
太白出東方·彗星揚精光
鴛鴦非越鳥·何為眷南翔
惟昔鷹將犬·今為侯與王
得水成蛟龍·爭池奪鳳凰
北斗不酌酒·南箕空簸揚