

+PROLOGUE

TO THE CHIMERA THEATRE PRODUCTION BY E. BURGESS

Before we set the spectacle before you,
which by your presence is your right to ask,
I crave an instant of your immortality
to speak to you about your role within the
cast.

Between us we compose the village.
Long ago each was assigned a part,
whether he be elder, idiot, innocent
or mystic
each has his function, each his art.

See the seasons change,
in natural order pass,
and mark the village
in a natural course
proceeding smoothly in the way
that harmony with nature would
dictate.

and as the theme develops, you -
villagers as much as those upon the
stage -
should note the harbinger of change
who sets the settlement in disarray.

Can what we know as progress not, in fact,
be but diversion from the path?
Yet is not diversion from the natural
course itself the course that nature
lays before us?
let it pass, and pass to an age old
perplexity.

Seeing his ancestral home in ruins,
the wise man is obliged to act.

Does he then remove himself to
build a safer stronghold,
does he choose to fashion beauty
from decay, or does he stay to
hasten the collapse?

Watch now, as the ancient mages
scanned the heavens to predict
the moment, when, in cosmic ballet,
Sun and Moon perform a step
foreshadowing the day Prometheus
thinking better of his indiscretion,
plucks the flame away and great Olympus,
iron-bound in allegiance for the act,
bestows instead remembrance of the
Jewelled Cup that first revealed
to man, which man, the delver, digging
blindly, has, with every passing age,
sunk ever deeper in the dross from his
misplaced attempts at rediscovery.

Performance is the ritual enactment of a
thought.
We stand astride the threshold of an age,
and we intend, by this enactment of this
thought, to invoke a stage whereby we make
safe conduct through the door that separates
this aeon from the next.

Hereby we invite you to assist our invocation
if you share our ends,
but, if to present consciousness you cleave
then we implore you to let natural selection
take its course
and not impede the progress of our ceremony +

