

away into the rocky country beyond, and the sun rose and I grew fevered with its heat, but I paused not to eat or drink, and no meat and no drink could I have obtained. Hurriedly I travelled over the first mountain-wall she had told me of, and by the evening I descended into the next valley. The shades fell, and I came to a great break in the mountain on the other side, and at its base I entered in, and at first groping in the darkness, I clambered down. A strange light soon shed itself, revealing the way. It was like amber enveiled in a grey mist, and it proceeded from my own brow, where the mark was. Downward and ever downward I ran, and the pathway became more dangerous and more terrible, but still I had no fear, for sight of my loved one's face should be had at the end.

After many hours the light failed, and the strange sounds I had heard for so long, increased in violence in front of me. They were like a joy-song of terror; they were like a death-wail of joy. I stood for one moment and listened in the great darkness, and then pressed forward in their direction. That instant they seemed to surround me, and I hurried; a horrible silence ensued, and then, as I threw myself upon the earth, the silence and the darkness passed, and in a huge wave, hideous shrieks passed over me and hot lights blinded me, until but a little way in front I came to her, and she looked towards me and called to me. I strove to reach her, but could not move. She still gazed, and then turned, and, ah God! placed her arms around a lurid neck, laid her head on a burning breast like molten brass, over which a thin blue haze hovers, and pressed her lips solemnly upon the vermilion lips of Satan, who smiled as his arm encircled her.

Again I fell, and my voice wailed, as did the others, and over me the hot light glowed.

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