

God's Hammer

The evolutionary ladder
Didn't just spiral up;
We built branches
In dire hopes
That a new shape could heal
It, the dearth of genetics.

We manipulated biology
And took our dreams
Into being.
Man played God.
We were good at it.

We built a new world.
Reclaiming desert wastes.
Resurrecting lost jungles.
Re-energizing dead seas.
Refiring the engines of time.

Society did not slip
Through a crack
In a power mad frenzy
The world simply adapted:
We had brought life back.

No, no, we stood ground
As sprouts poured up
And seeds spread round.
The crops we'd made
Did more than stay.

Wastelands were breadbaskets
and we cheered.
But our spliced genes
Turned the metropolis
More so apocalypse.

Plants more adaptive
Win Darwin's divide
And they take over.
The wilderness flourished
But the Wilds died.

Conquerors of the desert
Found earth beneath
The asphalt and concrete
And waged war on towers
Rooted at their foundations.

Their tendrils tore
And spread seams asunder.
Skyscrapers skewed
Factories floundered
On unstoppable agriculture.

The greenery grew
From fountains
Down drains
Passed piping.
Clogging society's arteries.

Business's balked:
The cash cow collapsed;
Overnight investments pulled,
And research was stone-walled.
But the box was open

Scrubbing algae
That made the city rivers
Green and clean;
Thrived as factories died.
Their life source spillage.

From the river flora
The ripple hit the fauna
Fish did flourish,
Birds and Mammals devoured
And seamen sailed.

As our towns failed
We moved away
To mountains
To marshes
To safety.

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But the vines crept
Everywhere.
They were an infection
Designed to save:
A cure-spawned disease.

Chaos spurned further;
Entropy took hold.
With zoos abandoned
Our modded mammals
Grew scared, hungry, and bold.

They escaped to find
Empty concrete jungles
With asphalt valleys
Filled with resting metal hulks
And rats aplenty.

Our structures crumbled
Into their playgrounds
Nature took its land
Because we made it strong
And found we could not kill it.

The mammals made
Into something more
So they could live
A longer, stronger score
Of years to give.

We craved them
For entertainment
And flipped genes
To our arrangement.
To our derangement.

They took over
The boundless scape
Pushing away us,
The hairless ape,
As they did reclaim

The animal kingdom
Is here again.

But this was not enough
The vaults we'd made tough
We're broken by ourselves
In fear and frenzy
These feral humans.

From these vaults
Diseases vented
Some old,
Some new,
Most deadly
And all trying.

Revelations was consulted
Once the plague resulted
And we fell
By the dozen.

We selected ourselves
For immunity
And fast fled
To scarcity
And scattered bands.

Our diaspora found
Us in nomad tribes,
We grew close with kin
And learned to live off land.
But make no mistake,
This was Exodus.

Some of us found
A new home on the sea,
With Islands adrift
Floating farms
And simple lives.

Had we but thought
Our endeavor through
We'd have had guards

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To undo
Our hopeful folly.

I've heard rumors
Of men making cities
Back on land.

They found old labs.
They fixed them up.
They mixed new cures.
They molded new beasts.
They made new vines.

They grew themselves a home
And made our rebel servants
Bow down to nature's flow.

I'd like to go
And see this place
An Eden
To our watery waste.

See my sister
Went and saw
Came back and said
"Nietzsche was right,
God is dead."

I asked her
What she meant
She said "Man played God,
And did it better."

We picked up his hammer
And swung it proud.
Then we dropped it,
Nice and loud.

Producing a symphony
Of nature's cacophony
Rearranging hierarchy
Generating malarchy
Genetics were the key.

We broke it out
Then let it fly.

We didn't plan to
But we made the Earth green
Man's effects were unseen
Unless you looked
At all of Nature's genes.

-Will Hackett