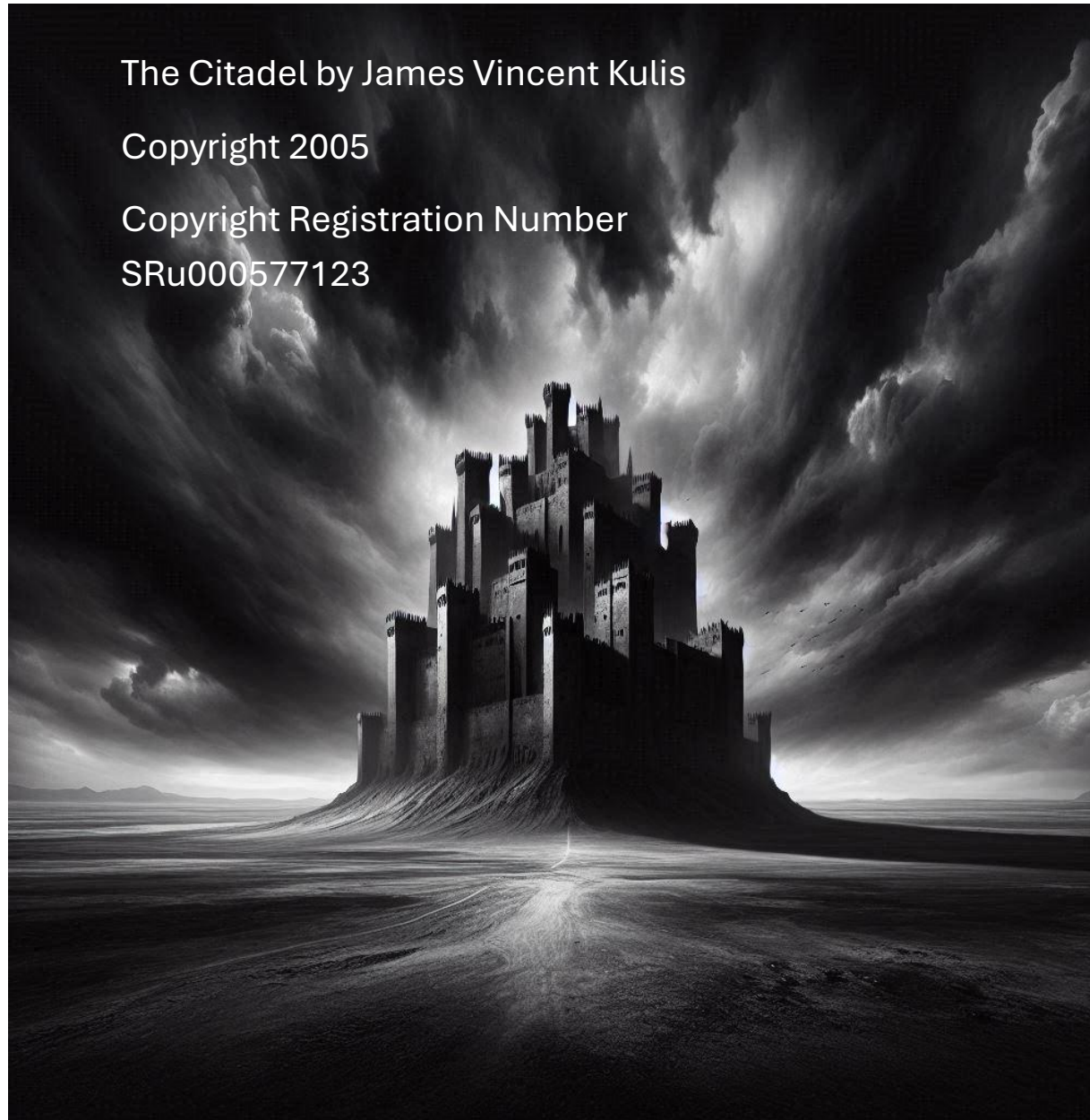


The Citadel by James Vincent Kulis

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1.

*When I had wandered long and hard
On the plain that was my home.
I looked and all my friends were gone
And I was all alone.*



2.

*The savage wind it blew like hell
'Til the wild beasts came around.
I looked and all my friends were gone
It was then that I hunkered down.*



3.

I searched the plain both far and wide

As far as I could see.

But there I saw no Citadel

For the only one was me.



4.

My shoulders like a tower rose.

Of my soul was the dungeon made.

My heart was the gate and the moat I swear

And my arms were the balustrade.



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First Chorus

A man is like a castle

That he's building every day.

And every time his heart is broke

Another brick is said.

*The Citadel is rising on the torn and
windy plain.*

And though it can protect within

It's a monument to pain.



5,

*You know I had a father once
Supposed to teach you right from
wrong.*

I showed up for lesson one

And I found that he was gone.



6.

*You know I had a mother once
Supposed to give you life and breath.
All I ever got from her
Was a real hard look at death.*



J.

You know I had a brother once

Supposed to be your soul and twin.

I would rather rot in hell

Than to be compared to him.



8.

*You know I had a lover once
Said she'd love me only true.
I would bet this ring of gold
She would tell the same to you.*



Repeat First Chorus.

A man is like a castle

That he's building every day.

And every time his heart is broke

Another brick is laid.

*The Citadel is rising on the torn and
windy plain.*

And though it can protect within

It's a monument to pain.



9.

A court will have a jester

And a wise man and a king.

Though they are not the Citadel

Here I am everything.



10.

*You talk of clods and tolling bells
And the islands and the rest.
Though they are not the Citadel
And cannot pass the test.*



11.

To weather long and hard the years

And a building every day.

*Be it struck by the hand of God
himself.*

It will never go away.



Second Chorus

*Though spring may come outside the
walls.*

And summer's warm embrace.

In gentle winds upon the plain

As soothing as God's grace.

*The Citadel knows naught of
autumn's harvest to begin.*

There's always winter in the walls.

There's always cold within.



12.

I climbed the highest tower

And I shouted out my pain.

*I looked and all my friends were
gone.*

And no one spoke my name.



13.

I plumbed the deepest dungeon

For a prison like myself.

*I looked and all my friends were
gone.*

And there was not a soul to help.



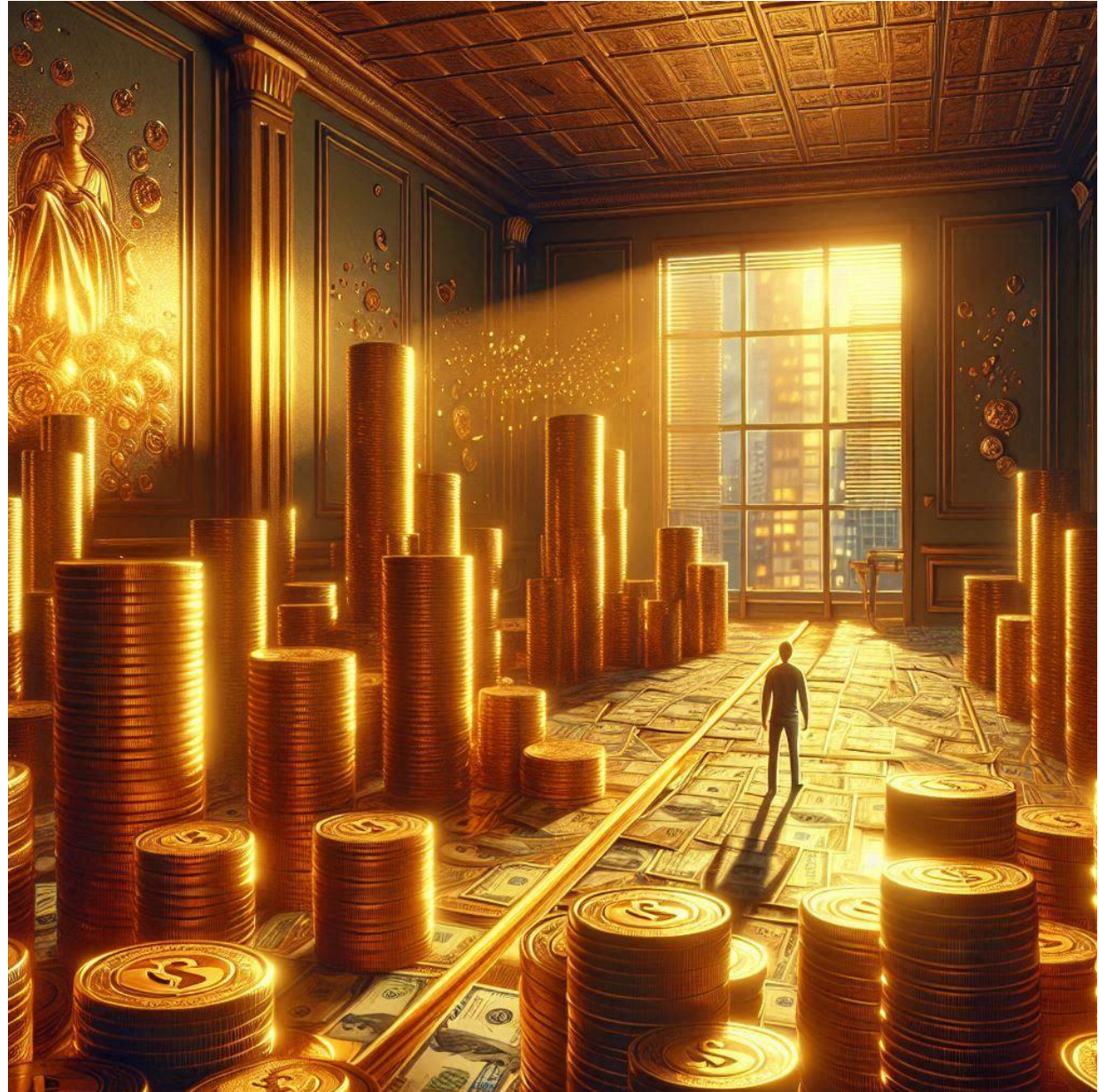
14.

I searched in all the money rooms.

Found the money that I sought.

*I looked and all my friends were
gone.*

*But that's somethin' can't be
brought.*



15.

I knelt inside the chapel.

Said a long and lonely prayer.

*I looked and all my friends were
gone.*

And he didn't seem to care.



Repeat Second Chorus

*Though spring may come
outside the walls.*

And summer's warm embrace.

In gentle winds upon the plain

As soothing as God's grace.

*The Citadel knows naught of
autumn's harvest to begin.*

*There's always winter in the
walls.*

There's always cold within.



16.

*They say that travel to and fro
Is a bounty to the soul.
But I am in the Citadel,
Wherever I may go.
The smiles on the boulevard,
The handshakes warm embrace
Remembered 'least as things gone
by
Then gone without a trace.*



17.

*I saw Saint Peters on the square
The Taj Mahal, Versailles -
Hard monuments all set in stone,
Did you ever wonder why?*



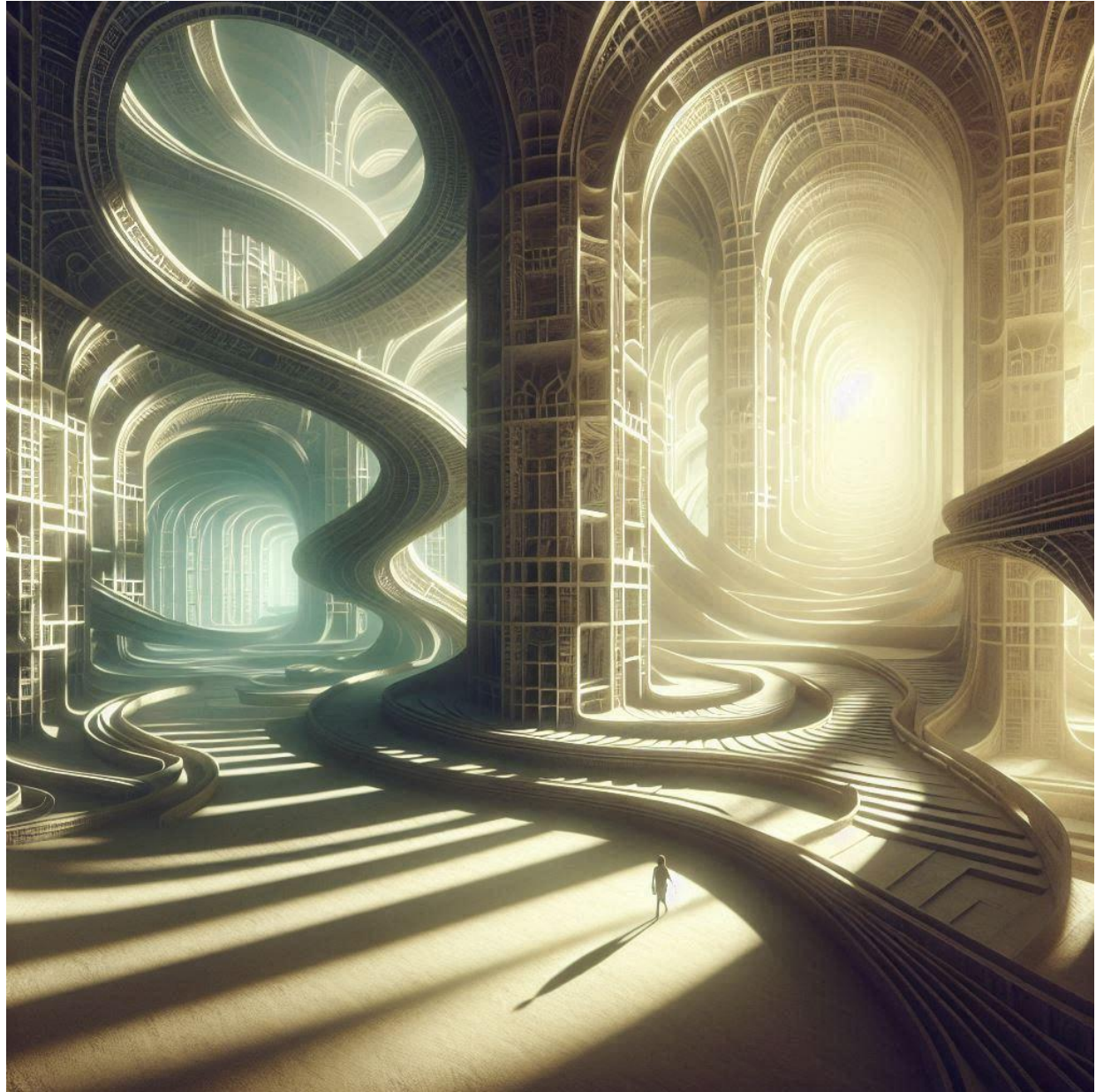
Third Chorus

The labyrinth was endless

As the mind's unfolding scheme.

I wander in the Citadel,

Through corridors and dreams.



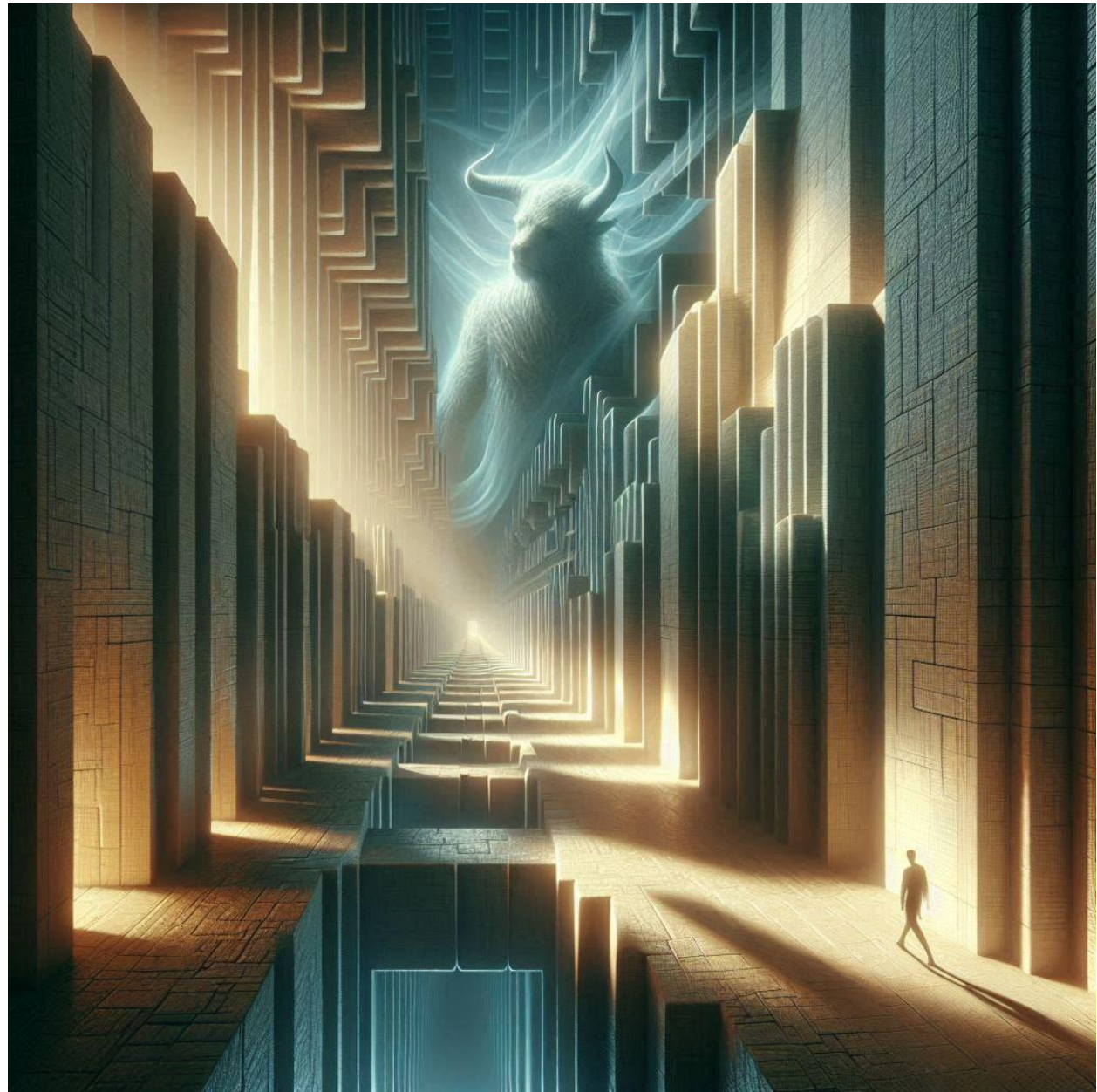
Third Chorus cont.

The minotaur was housed in shame

Unsighted as is sin.

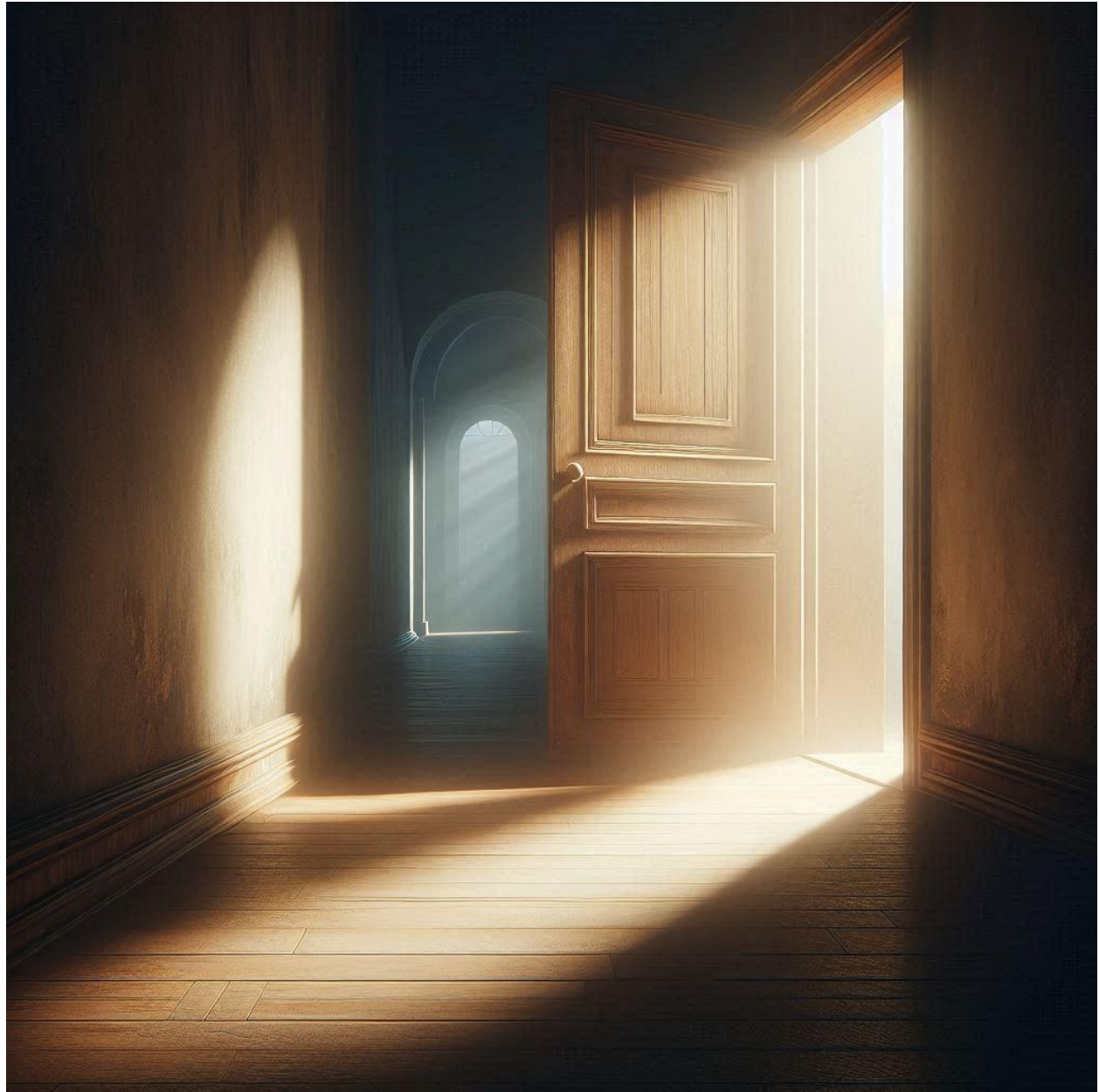
And though I walk here all alone.

The monster dwells within.



18.

*I heard a knock upon the door
Knocking like a heartbeat does.
I ran to answer, yes I did,
And I saw not who it was.*



19.

The knock came knockin'

Once again

And I saw the sight this time.

I sank there on the threshold sad,

As the knocking heart was mine.



Fourth Chorus

Yes, pity is a hollow gift

Not gave to anyone.

But felt within the heart of he

Who's pitying someone.

*Though crowds may gather on the
plain*

And siege the castle wall.

*Deep silence reigns within this
tomb,*

I'd never know at all.



20.

*When midnight comes the corridors
Leak ghosts as white as snow.
The memories of the ones I loved
And the folks I used to know.
They speak in riddles why they're
gone
And why they can't be there.
They hope that I can understand
But I can't seem to care.*



Fifth Chorus

So on I build.

*The years go by. The rooms are
legions now.*

Tall towers top God's sky

The cellars dig the devil's ground.

For eighty years I strive to build my

Lonely Citadel

'Til heaven's part of me I swear

And I'm a part of hell.



21.

Now I have learned ten languages.

Old Greek and Latin too.

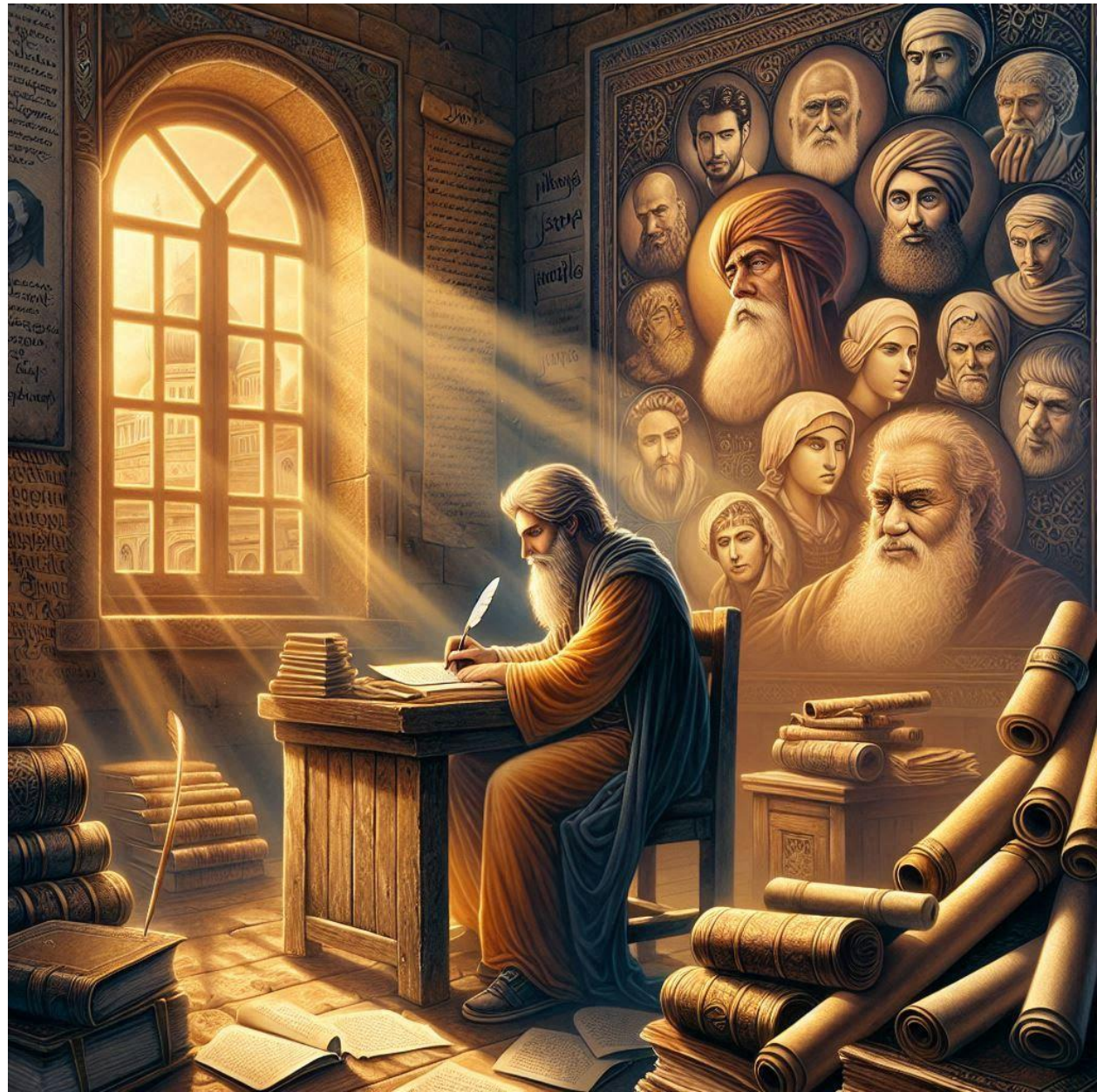
*But every poet every where says the
same damn thing to you.*

*Five thousand years they've
scratched the paper*

And they've scratched the stone.

*It could have been said in a single
phrase -*

That your born and you die alone.



Sixth Chorus

But merry are the blessed ones,

Who live their lives outside.

Who dance around like sunatics,

Without a thing to hide.

*Who sweetly sleep beneath the
stars.*

Wrapped in their peaceful brain.

If that is what is happiness,

I'd rather feel the pain.



22.

*When I have lived here eighty
years.*

And passed the lonely test.

I'll die and build a Citadel

In the thunderclouds, I guess.

From where I watch the lonely,

And the lonely plains stretched

bare,

All dotted with the Citadels

Of the lonely ones down there.



Final Chorus

There's not a thing resides together

With its rightful mate.

The stars above do burn alone,

So darkly answers fate.



Final Chorus cont.

The great one in his glory,

In his great celestial home.

There's only one of him, I think.

And He is all alone.

END

