

The Citadel

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*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.*



*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.*



*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.*



*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.*



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.*



*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.*



*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.*



*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.*



*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.*



First Chorus (repeated):

*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.*



*A court will have a jester
And a wise man and a king.
Though they are not the Citadel
Here I am everything.*



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



*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.*



*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.*



*I plumbed the deepest dungeon
For a prisoner like myself.
I looked and all my friends were gone.
And there was not a soul to help.*



*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 bought.*



*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.*



Second Chorus (repeat):

*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.*



*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.*

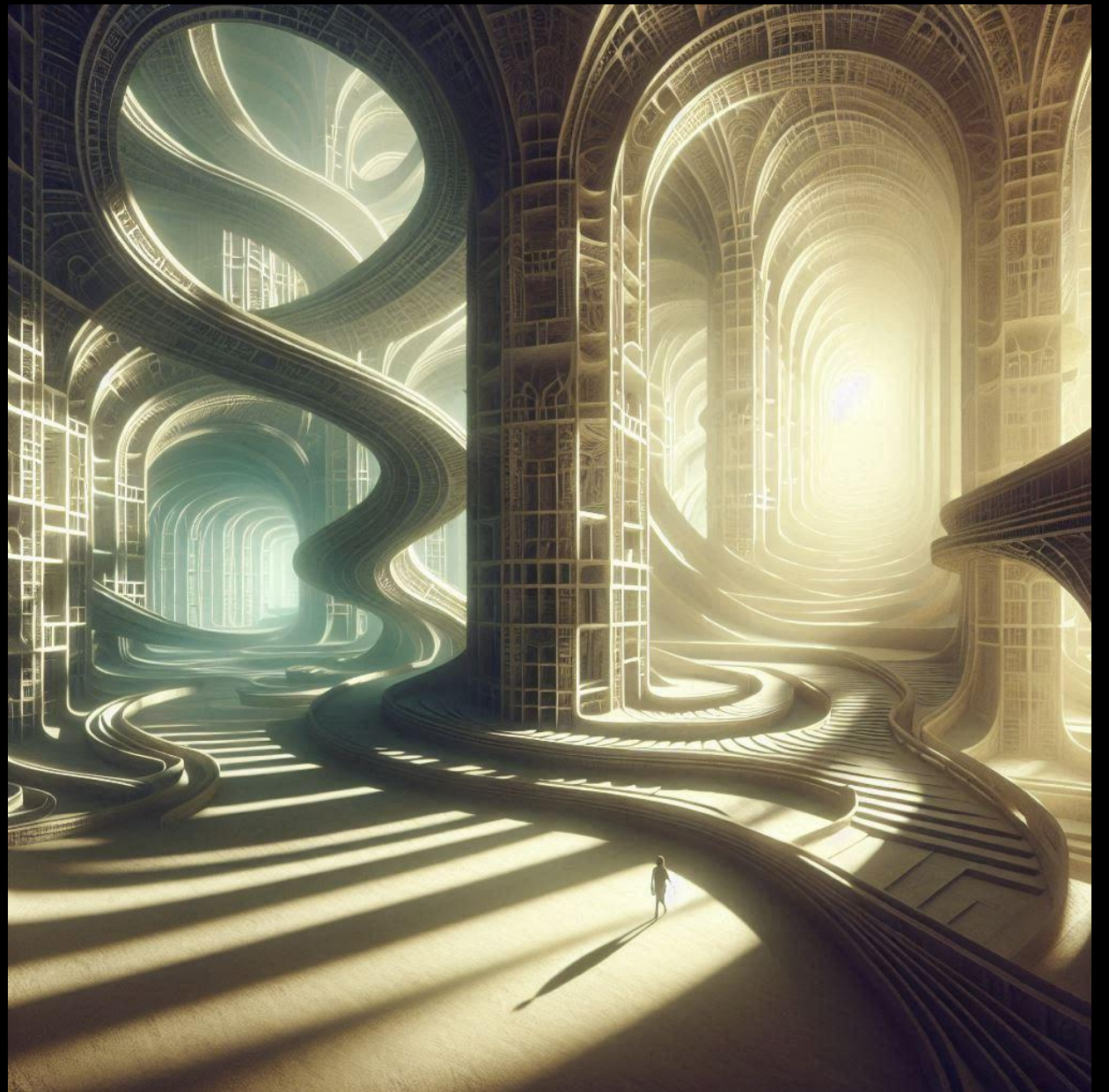


*I saw Saint Peters on the square
The Taj Mahal, Versailles -
Hard monuments all set in stone,
Did you ever wonder why?*



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.*



*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.*



*The knock came knockin'
Once again
And I saw the light 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.*



*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.*

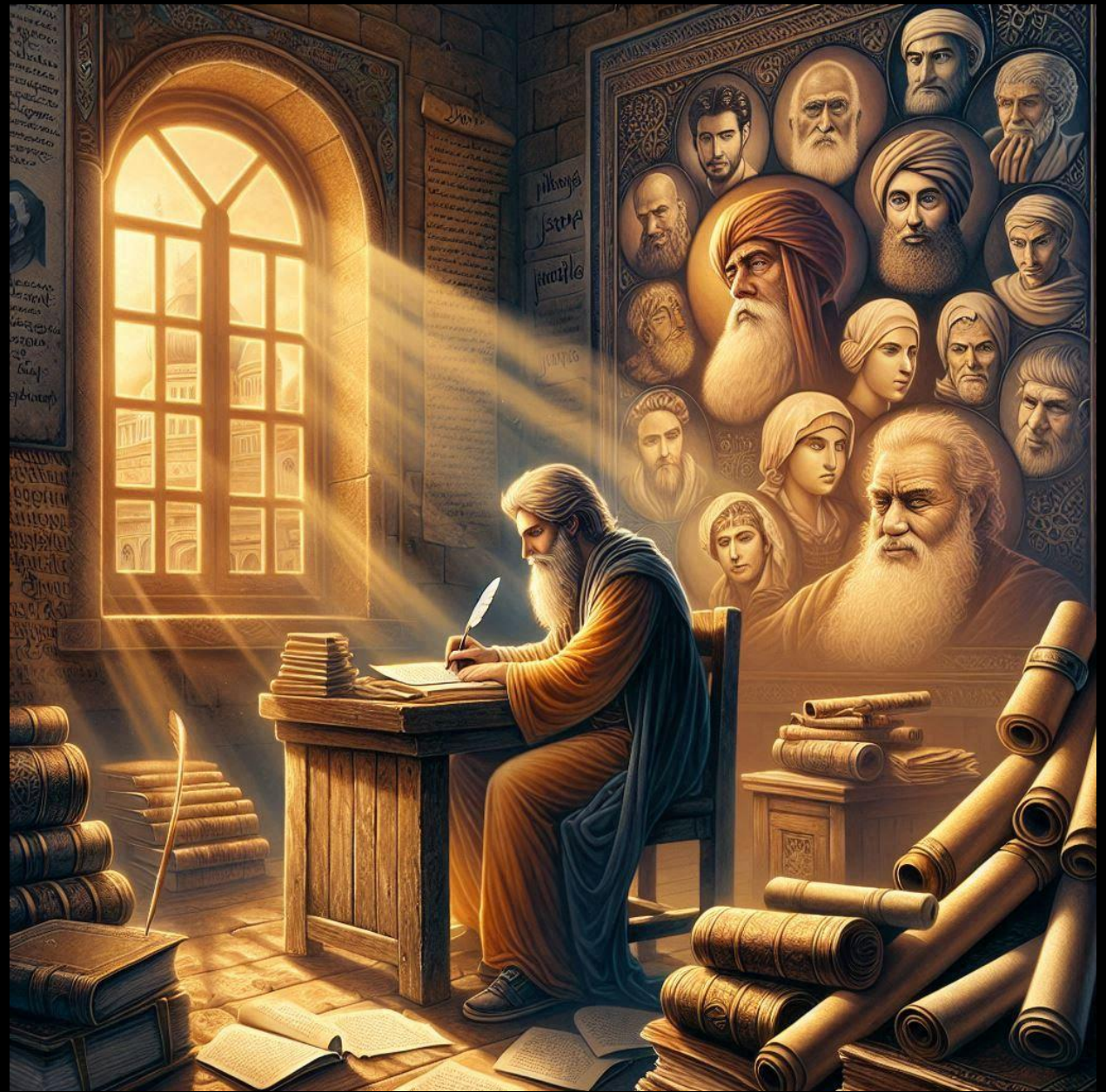


Fifth Chorus:

*So on I build.
The years go by. The rooms are legion 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.*



*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 lunatics,
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.*



Sixth Chorus:

*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 themselves do burn alone,
So darkly answers fate.* ∴



Final Chorus cont.

*And 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

