

# ERITHA

By Richard Paul

I was old when the world felt new

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And I've lived so long in frozen youth,

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Changing only as the species grew

--\*--- \*\_ --\*\_\_ --\*\_\_

And living on, for that's my truth.

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A chance encounter in the night,

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A shadowed face and a painful bite,

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A mix of my blood with his blight

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And near four-thousand years of life.

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Whole civilizations have died

---\*--- \*\_ --\*---

Everywhere but in my mind;

\_\* --\*--- \*\_ --\*---

In such great cities I once did bide

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Where now just nameless bones reside.

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I've walked the world so many times,

---\*--- --\*--- \*\_ --\*---

There's always something new to find;

\_\* --\*\_\_ --\*\_\_ --\*\_\_

To me the hourglass is kind,

\_\*\_\_ \*\_ --\*--- --\*\_\_

For now, for me, no death bell chimes.

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## CHORUS

Long is the dance and that suits me well,

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I hark for the music and never the knell.

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Long is the journey, my course is set,

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For all of my years, I'm not weary yet.

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## CHORUS

Oft I see from a mortal's pen

\_\*\_\_ \*\_ --\*\_\_ --\*\_\_

How immortals come to crave their end;

\_\* --\*\_\_ --\*--- --\*--- --\*---

I wish no coffin for damp to rend

---\*--- \*\_ --\*--- --\*---

Nor a pallid corpse for worms to tend.

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## CHORUS END

I watched mankind ascend to space,

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I' watched their war and long disgrace

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Then watched them reclaim their rightful place,

---\*--- --\*\_\_ --\*\_\_ --\*--- --\*---

And now through the stars I shall race.

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## CHORUS

-\*- = suggested stressed syllables.

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