

# The Hall

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Matthew Inouye | Poetry

In The Hall grace and dread sit apace. And the latter is of great size and strength and holds the nape of the other in its heinous palm. It is a place of interminable polarity where the gallery is filled with the most splendid of portraits and the most grotesque of statues, but the statues are that of terror and defeat. They sit as they were in a perfect copy, and it is passion that calls them to sing, and fear that calls them to dance. The horrors fill The Hall while being courted by the good, as they try to quell their obsession with destruction. But it is no use for they have inhabited The Hall with their terror and feed on the flesh of the walls and on the bones of the battered furnishings. It is in The Great Hall where the horrors make peace, satisfying their perpetual greed for bliss. They are thieves of joy. They sing of their inception and of the great consternation they felt then, but they cannot leave, as The Hall is where they take refuge and the only realm of their existence. Without it they are but wisps of water in a cloud, or a whit of ore, inhabiting a space disproportionately minute compared to that which they do in The Hall. The graceful portraits are angels of virtue, but dare seek the destruction of the horrors, as their innumerable enemy renders them abject. So The Hall tenders asylum to the horrors, as it knows not what else to do. It is averse to their expulsion for they were conceived in The Hall's very antechamber, but yet loathes them for their insatiable consumption of the very walls in which gave them shelter and dressed them in such regal attire. The horrors remain heedless in their appetite and exhaust The Hall of its stock of peace by each sunset, and The Hall knows not what to do. The Hall must remain diligent in its up keeping, renewing the lacquer and repairing the carnage, but the finite nature of The Hall's survival causes it to tarry for its destruction by its own residents. It is a mournful end for a hall of such stature, however it can be evaded with great spirit and aid from an adjoining entity. It is only in these where The Hall can find solace and return the horrors to their preconceived stupor.