

## SHAMBLES

You were there for the birth of a creature, its potential still hidden;  
You witnessed the spectacular rise of an empire;  
Excelsior! it did not stop, and at its pinnacle, its name was exalted by some and brought terror to the rest,  
And you also know that the majestic walls of a once-great nation crumbled as the gold rusted to silver,  
And its greatness eclipsed by a mighty contender who did not shiver upon knowing its face,  
And silver to bronze, and bronze to iron, and iron to sulphur, and sulphur to mere dust,  
You saw that mighty contender reach your golden prime, and even that did it surpass

And lead transcended to gold,  
and gold transmuted to platinum,  
and platinum altered to diamond still,  
and the Diamond Age to the Heroic Age,  
superseded by the Idyllic Age,  
then to the Paradisiac Age,  
And to stardust it did belong,  
But because it was to surpass you!  
And for a moment,  
you rose from the ashes  
and, like a phoenix,  
reveled in your glory for one last time.