

## **CUTTYHUNK SUNSET: A PRAYER**

**O KING OF THE WORLD AND MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE  
WHEN THE TIME COMES (AS IT MUST)  
FOR YOUR PATIENCE TO BE EXHAUSTED  
BY OUR CONTINUED FAILURES AND STUPIDITIES**

**YOU WILL, IF I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY,  
BRING THIS WORLD TO AN END  
DESTROY WHAT IS EVIL, BANISH YOUR OLD ADVERSARY FOREVER,  
AND BUILD A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.**

**THAT ALL SOUNDS VERY COMMENDABLE,  
ESPECIALLY THAT PART ABOUT THE ADVERSARY.  
IN THE MEANTIME HOWEVER I YOUR SERVANT  
SIT HERE ON THIS WINDY HILLTOP  
AND WATCH THE CIRRUS IN THE WESTERN SKY  
CATCH FIRE FROM THE EVENING STAR'S SPARK  
WHILE DOWN THIS DARKENING ROAD  
TWO MISCELLANEOUS KITTENS  
PLAY ENDLESS GAMES OF HUNT AND POUNCE  
AMONG THE BLACKBERRIES  
WHILE THE INCOMPARABLE INCENSE OF BARBECUING RIBS  
DRIFTS SKYWARD, ACCOMPANIED BY SOUNDS OF SONG AND LAUGHTER  
AND A THREE-MONTH-OLD FIGHTING SLEEP.**

**THERE IS MUSIC TOO OF DISTANT FOGHORNS  
AND SOUNDLESS MUSIC TOO OF THE IMPENDING MIST -  
I SEE IT NOW  
A GREY SHAPE, FAR OUT TO SEA  
WAITING PATIENT FOR THE FLOOD TIDE  
THAT WILL BRING IT INSHORE  
TO BATHE THE WORLD IN SILVER ...**

**BUT NOT YET: IN THE STILL-CLEAR SKY  
THERE IS A GOUDA MOON  
BALANCED ABOVE GAY HEAD  
AND THERE ARE ONES I LOVE NOT FAR AWAY.**

**OH KING OF THE WORLD, IN YOUR WISDOM  
CHANGE WHAT YOU WILL OF THIS POOR UNSUCCESSFUL PLANET  
BUT, I PRAY YOU,  
AS YOU PLAN THE NEW CREATION  
KEEP IN MIND ALL THE MARVELLOUS THINGS YOU HAVE MADE  
AND SHARED WITH US  
THAT DON'T NEED ALL THAT MUCH CHANGING.**

***AMEN.***

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- 1992