

Time Of Singing

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THE SPIRE

The spire turning in the air, describing like a compass' arm
a burning circle, like a demon's magic symbol in the sand
that, when complete, and with the right words whispered
in a language no one understands, will yield this end
for which we've laboured some two hundred years in light
that feeds on precious disappearing darkness: a world
of rust and flame in forest and on mountaintop: this spire,
now set up again, not as easily but with the same reward
the child feels when the knocked-down castle is rebuilt,
points upward, not to earth, because it ardently insists
that — pillage what we will — we are creators still,
Created; that the magic is not lost and past, the mystery
not gone out of the world, because it comes from elsewhere;
cathedrals, stone or not, will not outlast their makers,
the professions of their makers, being that they are eternal.

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