

As soon as it was finished, two distinguished men, with two faces, too the platform. "If I am elected" one of the faces of the first man said, "No pillars will fall on anyone anymore." Then the first face of the other man said "If I am elected, No pillars will fall on anyone anymore." After the two men left the stage, the second face of the first man began to talk to the second face of the second man. I could not hear what they were saying, but I heard a sigh from behind me and watched the sixth pillar fall on both of them.

"Why did the pillar fall on the two men with two faces?" I asked the voice. The voice sighed again and harshly commanded me to "Watch and Learn!"

"What is there to watch? All the pillars have now fallen. Will you explain to me what you have showed me?"

"In time. Continue to watch, I am not done yet." The voice said

As he said this, the most horrifying scene began. Wild animals began running into the streets. Birds with long beaks and sharp talons joined them. All began ripping at the flesh of the dead and the remaining living. The people began to scream for the first time, running in mass into the remains of the temple, now supported by only three swaying walls. Into the temple they crowded, pressed and packed against the building's walls. The wild animals did not and would not follow them inside. The people fell to their knees and prayed to be rescued by a now extinct god. "Save us, save us from the wild animals" they wailed.

To my astonishment the statue began to move, to become human, to become beautiful, to be loved, to be worshiped. "I will save you." It said. "I will save you and take you with me." It intoned in a loud and beautiful voice.

"Yes take us with you." The people answered.

"I will." It said, And it's beauty fell away, revealing it's true ugliness, it violence, it hatred. "I will save you and take you to hell!"

"Yes, Yes, save us and take us!" They all screamed, as their voices shook the weakened walls of the temple. The wild animals outside continued to tear at the bodies, as the frighten crowded inside giving their lives to darkness.

Outside, stood a single lonely child, crying for his mother. The same child scolded by his teacher, who ran in the wilderness crying. To him the wild animals paid no attention.

Inside the temple his mother, through all the wailing, heard his voice, and cried "No, I don't want you to take me or save me" to the horrible fiend that was once a lovely statue. "My own child will save me."

The fiend answered her back, "Then you will die." And the people responded "Yes, she will die. We will live."

As she fled the temple, it's walls wavering with their chant "She will die, we will live." The wall gave way, and came down on their heads.

I was astonished as I watched the woman run and embrace her child.

"I know her." I said to the voice "She's a whore, a slut, She sells herself for money."

"Why are you so quick to judge." The voice said. "Do you think that she chose her life willing?"

"But she's a whore. Why don't the wild animals bother her and her bastard son?" I said

"She is spared because she is good, she is pure of heart. Her son lives because he is also. Because they both believe."

"What about the strong ones with the weapons, the fat ones with the money, and the ones who brought them back to life? What about the teacher and the children, the one with the two faces and the one's in the temple, who were fleeing the wild animals? What about all of them?" I asked

"Because one is strong, successful, or resourceful, because one is powerful, influential, or popular, does not make one pure or good." Said the voice

"But surely a prostitute can't be good." I said

"In her heart she is"

"Then what of the others, are they not good in their hearts."

"They allowed them selves to be corrupted by violence, and greed, and vanity, by power, cruelty, and deceit. They lost faith in me and embraced the evil of the world."

"Then how does one become pure in heart."

"By doing what is right, by living by my example and doing as I taught."

"Is that all."

"And believing in me even though you have never seen me."

"But I shall see you" I said as I turned around to look, but there was no one there, even the warmth had disappeared.

I turned back to look at the desolate scene that was before me, but all I saw was ruins of a long past age.