

The Relentless Rhythm of the Hammer

[Music and Lyrics by Kathryn Wheeler]

1. *Enter the zone..*

*Where every hope and
dream lies in your grasp*

Where time has flown..

*In a blissful state of
focus on your task*

*You've signed the deal,
Sealed the pact
Now its time for you to act..*

Chorus

*The relentless rhythm of the
hammer*

*The tireless toil of the
tradesman's skill*

*The relentless rhythm of the
hammer*

*Doomed to suffer the Eternal's
will*

2. *No need to pause...*

*To eat, to drink, to think of other
things*

No hunger gnaws....

*No ache, no throbbing pain,
no blister stings*

*You've struck the bargain,
Guaranteed
You'd do your utmost to succeed...*

Chorus

3. *No space to breathe...*

*You suffocate in torment while
you toil*

You scream, you seethe...

*Yet, bound by blood, you're
chained,*

..and that blood boils

*You've signed with tears
Made the bet
Now its time for you to sweat..*

Chorus

4. *This endless night*

*Where only victory or death
await you now*

No sense, no sight

*Only the pressing need to execute
your vow*

You dream of death

In your distress

A final breath...

Or else, success

Chorus

5. *The day awaits*

*And, blearily, you're led into the
light*

You cannot think

*You cannot speak, you cannot
see, it's all too bright*

You soon forget

Your wounds will heal

You bend again to hammer steel

Blacksmiths

(From the point of view of someone hearing the work going on all night!) - read this out in a ranting style!

*Smut-smirched smiths, smothered with smoke
Drive me to death with distraction and din.
No one ever heard such noise in the night:*

*Clamouring of knaves and clattering knocks,
The hog-nosed hobgoblins hollering, "Ho! Coal!"
And blowing their bellows fit to burst brains.*

*"Huff! Puff!" howls one, "Haff! Paff!" another,
Gnashing and gnawing and groaning together,
Hitting out hotly with mad hammers,
Roundly wrapped in rawhide aprons,
Their shanks hard-clad against sparks.*

*They heft heavy hammers - hard to handle -
And bang on anvils with angry smacks:
"Luss! Buss! Luss! Dass!": chorus of crashing!
Devils are doomed by so dreadful a din!*

*He lengthens by belting, he smelts and he snips,
He twists and he twines, striking three times:
"Tik! Tak! Hic! Hac! Tiket! Taket! Tik! Tak!*

*Luss! Buss! Luss! Dass!" Such lives they lead:
Mad, blackened farriers! Be merciful, Christ!
They plunge iron in water; ravage the night.*

(translation of 14thc poem by Giles Watson)