



**GAME NARRATIVE**  
SUMMIT

# FORCE AND FIRE: MAKING YOUR GAME MORE METAL

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**GDC**

GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE® | FEB 27-MAR 3, 2017 | EXPO: MAR 1-3, 2017 #GDC17



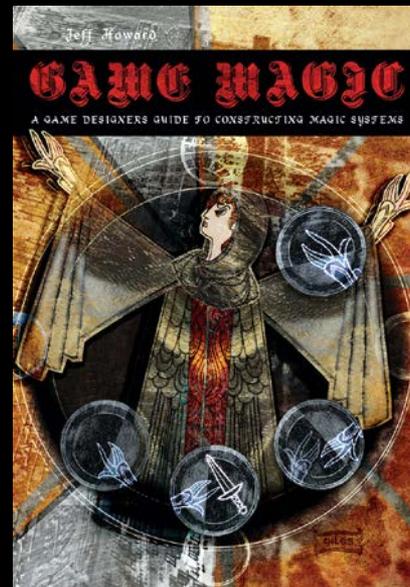
UBM

# QUESTS

Design, Theory, and History in Games and Narratives



Jeff Howard



Turn it Up to 11





# Double LP





# Force and Fire: A Double LP

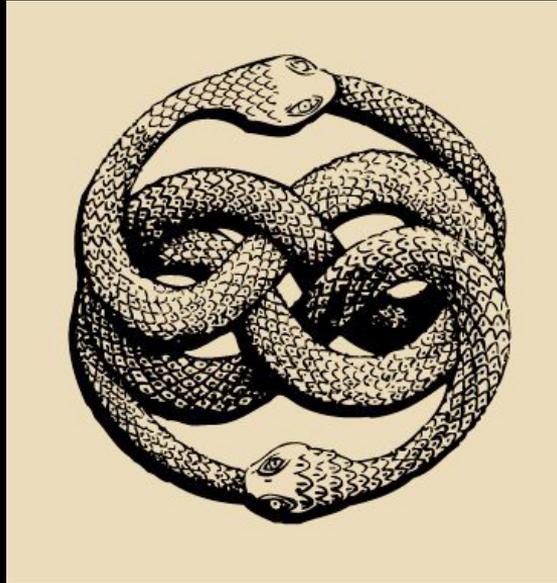
Side A: In the Beginning is the Song

Side B: The Song Spawns the Word

Side C: The Word Forges the World

Side D: The Mechanics Energize the World

# Cyclical & Intertwined

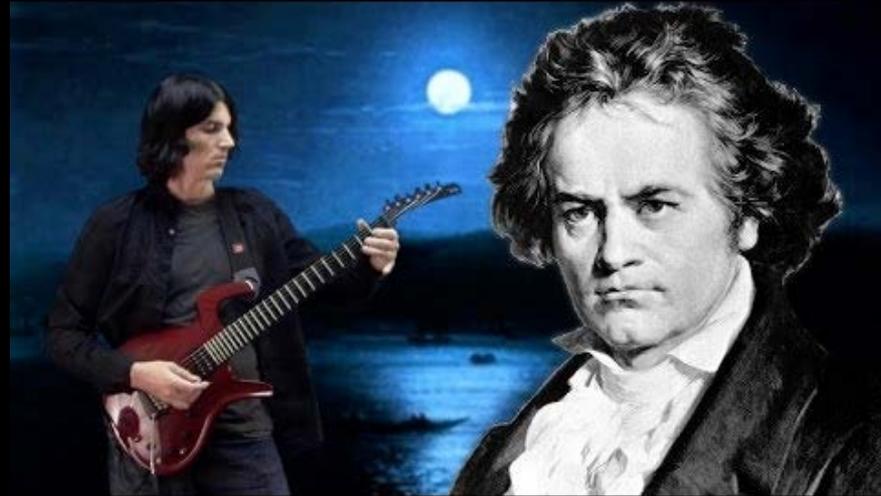


In the Beginning Is the Song



HEAVY METAL  
THUNDER

# Moonlight Sonata: Metal is a State of Mind





# Metal is a Crossroads





**Metal is Magic: Magic is Energy**





# Riff



Iron Man ♯ = 64

The image shows a musical score for the Iron Man riff. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as ♯ = 64. The riff is written in a style that is common for guitarists, with many notes beamed together. The bass staff contains fret numbers for each note.

Staff	Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3	Measure 4	Measure 5	Measure 6	Measure 7	Measure 8	Measure 9	Measure 10	Measure 11	Measure 12	Measure 13	Measure 14	Measure 15					
Treble	C4	D4	E4	F#4	G4	A4	B4	C5	B4	A4	G4	F#4	E4	D4	C4					
Bass	7	16	16	12	12	14	15	17	17	14	15	14	15	16	17	12	12	14	14	14





# Modus Diaboli

diminished augmented

5th

4th



(tritone)

(tritone)



# The Solo



**BLOODY TEARS**  
from *Castlevania II: Simon's Quest*

Music by  
Konami Digital Entertainment

Moderately fast  $\text{♩} = 126 - 132$

© Konami Digital Entertainment  
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The Song Spawns the Word

## Power Metal Lyric Generator

VERBS	ADVERBS	PREPOSITIONS	ADJECTIVES	NOUNS	
Galloping	Triumphantly	Through	Snowy	Moonlight	Path
Crying	Quickly	into	Shining	Darkness	Ice
Enlightening	Eternally	above	Glowing	Defensors	Mountain
Darkening	Brightly	beneath	Ancient	Wings	Plains
Fly	Vengefully	beyond	Rising	Light	Hearts
Rise	Courageously	amongst	Crystal	Fields	Stars
Reflects	Defiantly	below	Fantastical	Destiny	Fire
Climb	Gracefully	under	Soulful	Sun	Lands
Burn	Solemnly	in	Aggressive	Heavens	Abyss
Redeem	Viciously	against	Courageous	Souls	
Power	Sorrowfully	within	Defiant	Sunlight	
Guide	Bravely	inside	Bloody	Battle Cry	
Standing	Mysteriously	before	Cloudy	Night	
Blazing	Violently	outside	Graceful	Skies	
Reaching	Frantically		Misty	Dream	
Searching	Wildly		Icy	Clouds	

## HEAVY METAL BAND NAME GENERATOR

(USE THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR FIRST NAME)

A=RANCID	I=BASTARD	R=BLEEDING
B=INSANE	J=FORSAKEN	S=GUILTY
C=BLACK	K=HELL'S	T=WITCH'S
D=IRON	L=FORBIDDEN	U=HEAVY
E=HOLY	M=DARK	V=ILLEGAL
F=RABID	N=FRANTIC	W=FALLEN
G=BLOODY	O=DEVIL'S	X=SINISTER
H=SATAN'S	P=EVIL	Y=CRAZY
	Q=INNER	Z=TROUBLED

(USE THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME)

A=EMPIRE	I=ANARCHY	R=SPAWN
B=FURY	J=HENCHMEN	S=TEMPLE
C=RAGE	K=KILL	T=REALM
D=ZOMBIES	L=VENGANCE	U=HATE
E=SIN	M=TENDENCIES	V=SLAVES
F=WARRIORS	N=MAGIC	W=THORN
G=ANGELS	O=SOLDIER	X=ABYSS
H=DEATH	P=GODS	Y=FIRE
	Q=GOBLIN	Z=SECRETS





### Paradise Lost Book 2

@milton\_book2

TWEETS  
294K

FOLLOWING  
1

FOLLOWERS  
60

Paradise Lost Book 2



**Paradise Lost Book 2** @milton\_book2 · Aug 26  
With noises loud and ruinous (to compare



**Paradise Lost Book 2** @milton\_book2 · Aug 26  
He had to cross. Nor was his ear less pealed



**Paradise Lost Book 2** @milton\_book2 · Aug 26  
Pondering his voyage; for no narrow frith



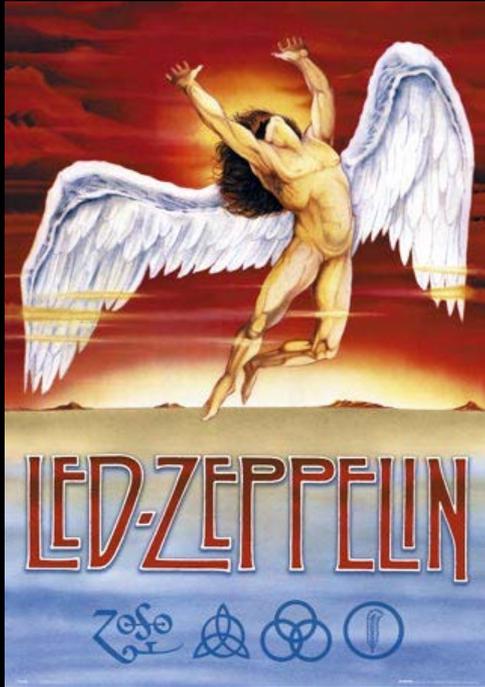
**Paradise Lost Book 2** @milton\_book2 · Aug 26  
Stood on the brink of Hell and looked a while,



**Paradise Lost Book 2** @milton\_book2 · Aug 26  
Into this wild Abyss the wary Fiend



**Paradise Lost Book 2** @milton\_book2 · Aug 26

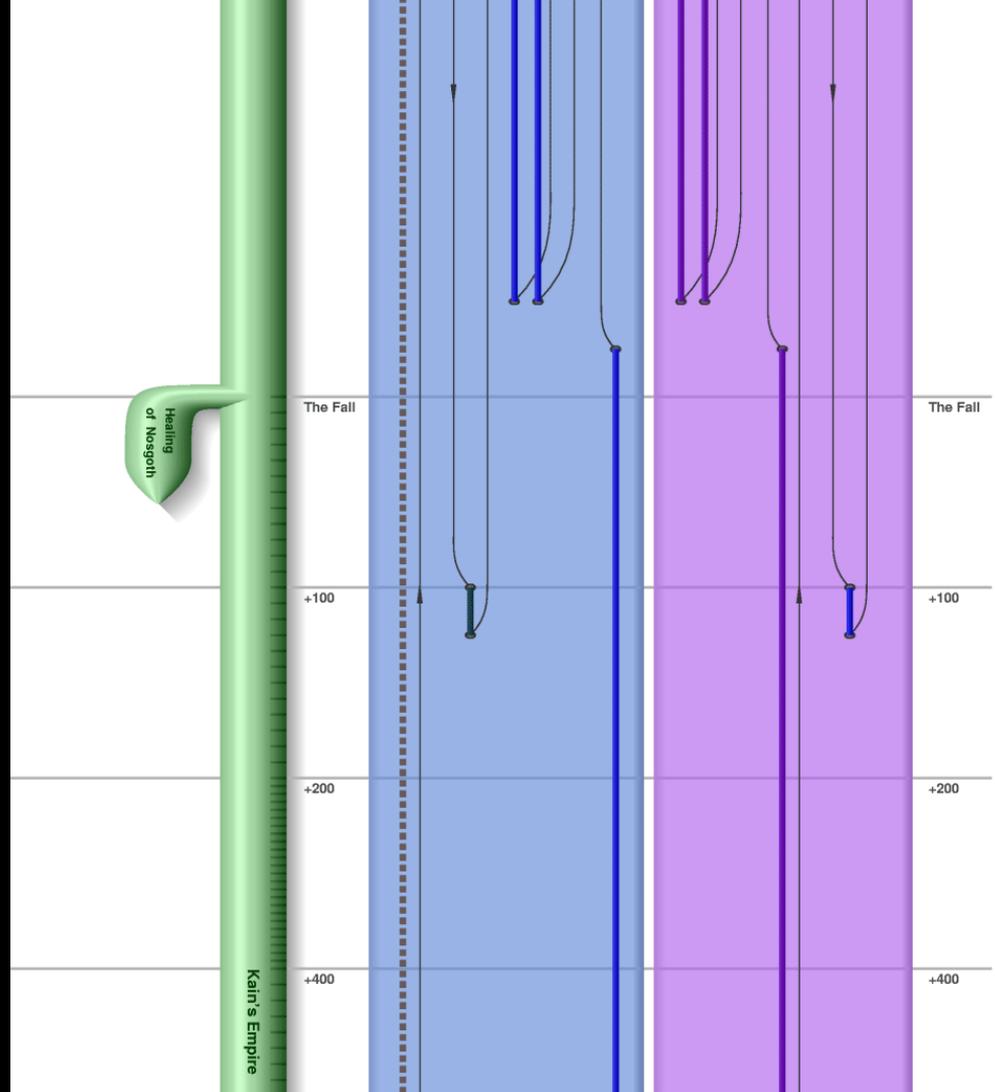


# Raziel, Who Was Cast Down





# The World





The reason Milton wrote in fetters when he wrote of Angels and God, and at liberty when of Devils and Hell, is because he was a true poet and of the Devil's party without knowing it.

(William Blake)

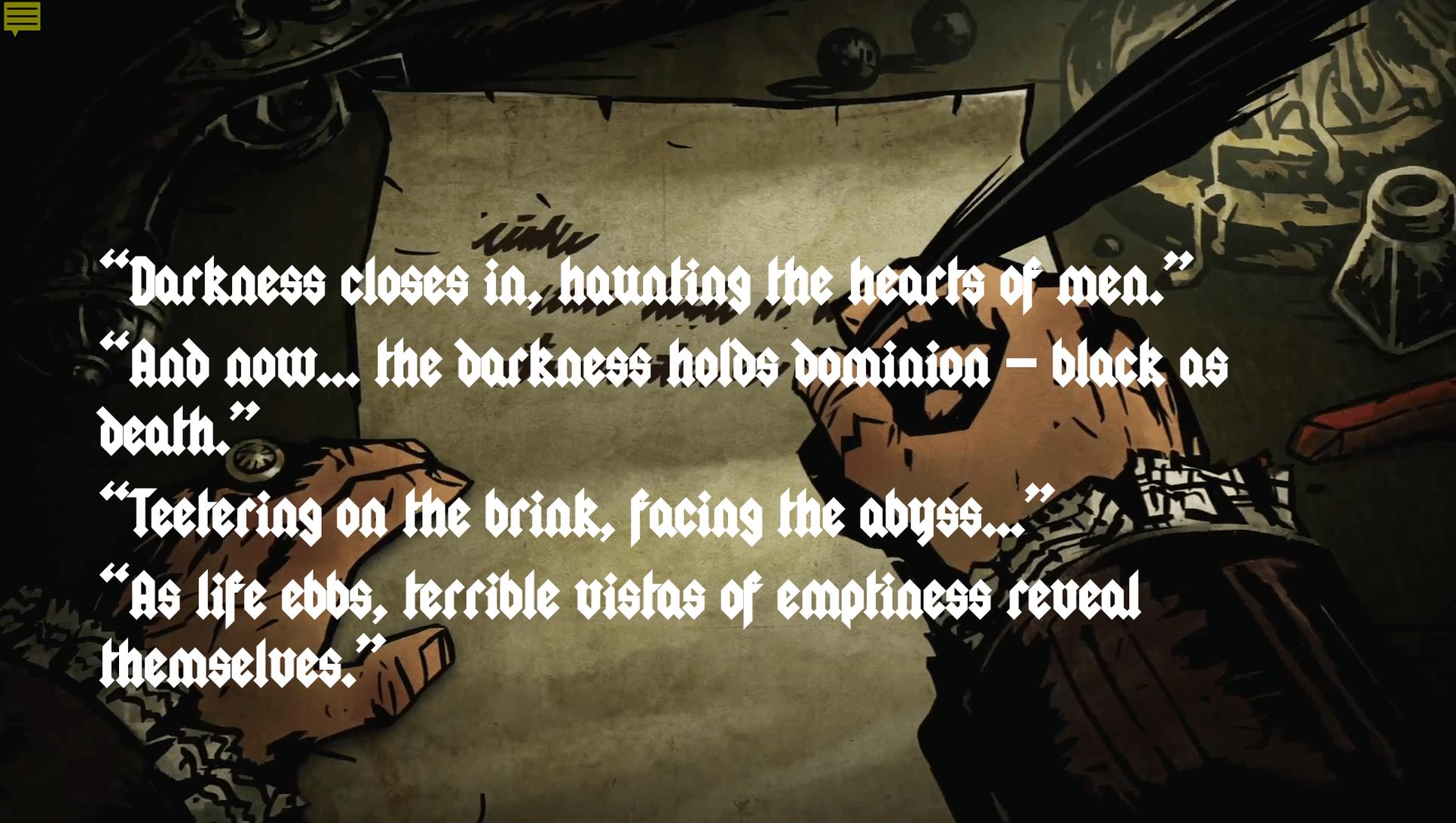




# Pawns of the False God Drew, Who Hates Dark Souls

According to the stacks of market research studies that apparently spontaneously generate on Drew's desk, *Dark Souls* doesn't represent what typical consumers want from their games. It does well with the "core," he concedes, but when you're spending *ShatterGate* money, *Dark Souls* becomes "commercially unviable."



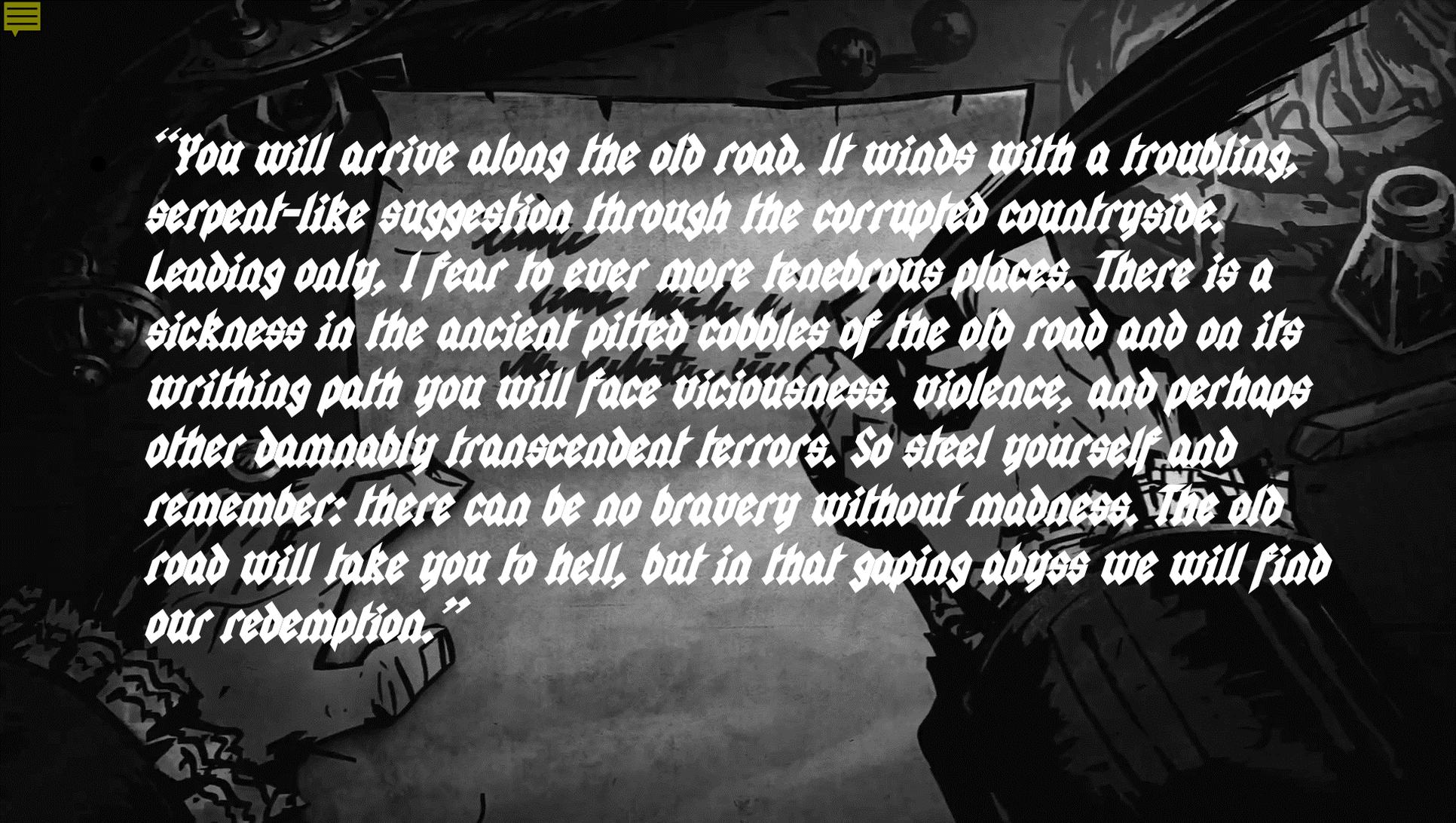


**“Darkness closes in, haunting the hearts of men.”**

**“And now... the darkness holds dominion – black as death.”**

**“Teetering on the brink, facing the abyss...”**

**“As life ebbs, terrible vistas of emptiness reveal themselves.”**



*"You will arrive along the old road. It winds with a troubling, serpent-like suggestion through the corrupted countryside. Leading only, I fear to ever more tenebrous places. There is a sickness in the ancient pitted cobbles of the old road and on its writhing path you will face viciousness, violence, and perhaps other damoably transcendent terrors. So steel yourself and remember: there can be no bravery without madness. The old road will take you to hell, but in that gaping abyss we will find our redemption."*

**The Word Forges a Vision of the World**

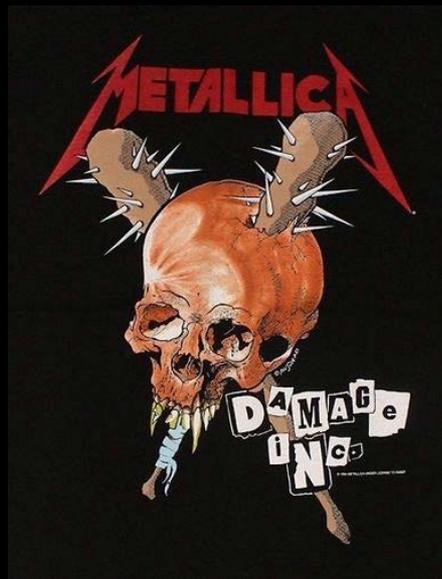
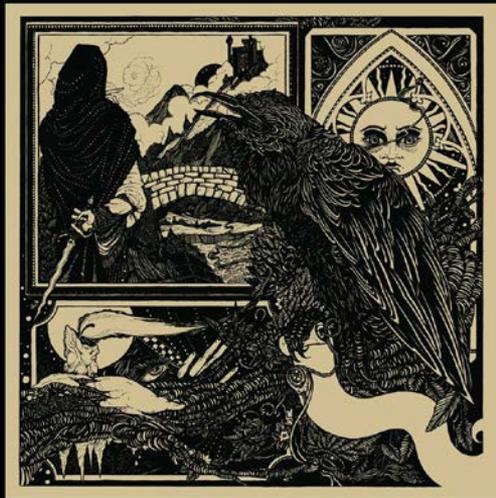




# IRON MAIDEN

## LEGACY OF THE BEAST

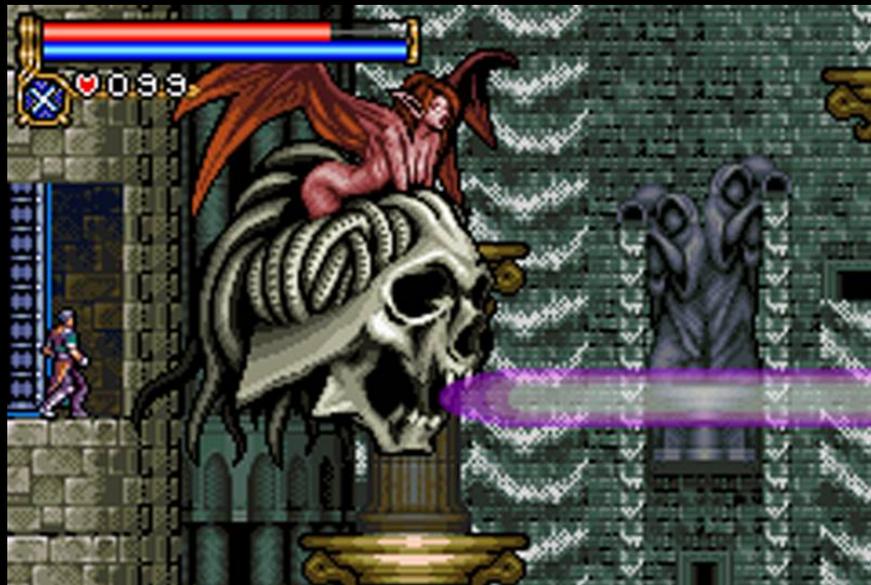








“Hear Now the Requiem of Blood . . .”



# “Atop the Corpses of Thy Brethren”





# Inspirations for a Metal World

Sublime

Gothic

Weird

Crimdark



# Sublime



# The Gothic



# Ravenloft is Metal



# INNISTRAD Is Metal



# The Shire is Not Metal



(But Ringwraiths Are Metal AF)



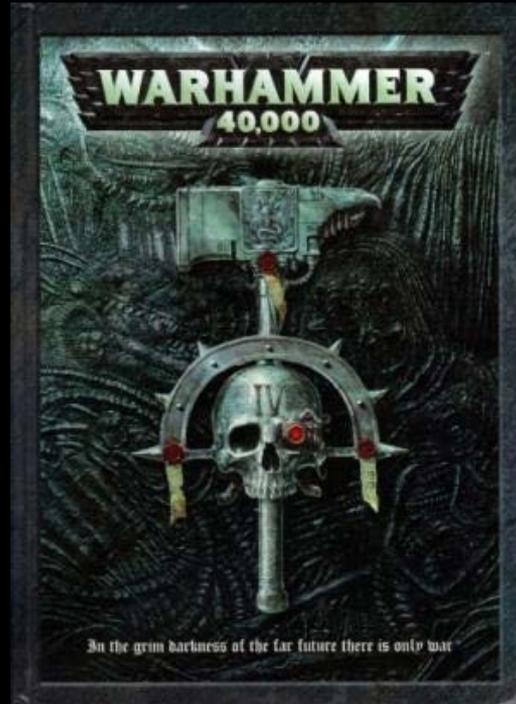


# Melnibone is Metal





is Metal



# Yharnam is Gothic, Grimdark, Weird and Sublimely Metal





**DOOM**

SCARYDARKFAST

50 72% TV

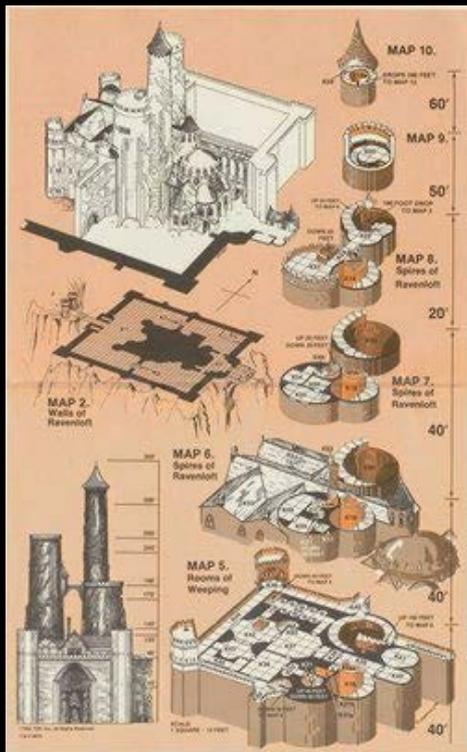
Dan Pinchbeck

1000000

GothicWeirdSublime



# The Architecture of Madness





# The Mechanics Energize the World







Vertical column of golden symbols and characters on the left side of the image.



Vertical column of golden symbols and characters on the right side of the image.



Go forth then . . .





And Live Deliciously . . .



# Questions in the Wrap-Up Room (2014)