



## Cygnus X-1 Book II: Hemispheres (18:08)

### I. Prelude (4:27)

When our weary world was young  
The struggle of the Ancients first began  
The Gods of Love and Reason  
Sought alone to rule the fate of Man

They battled through the ages  
But still neither force would yield  
The people were divided  
Every soul a battlefield...

### II. Apollo *Bringer of Wisdom* (2:35)

'I bring Truth and Understanding  
I bring Wit and Wisdom fair  
Precious gifts beyond compare  
We can build a world of wonder  
I can make you all aware'

'I will find you food and shelter  
Show you fire to keep you warm  
Through the endless winter storm  
You can live in grace and comfort  
In the world that you transform.'

*The people were delighted  
Coming forth to claim their prize  
They ran to build their cities  
And converse among the wise*

*But one day the streets fell silent  
Yet they knew not what was wrong  
The urge to build these fine things  
Seemed not to be so strong*

*The wise men were consulted  
And the Bridge of Death was crossed  
In quest of Dionysus  
To find out what they had lost...*

### III. Dionysus *Bringer of Love* (2:05)

'I bring Love to give you solace  
In the darkness of the night  
In the Heart's eternal light  
You need only trust your feelings;  
Only Love can steer you right'

'I bring Laughter, I bring Music  
I bring Joy and I bring Tears  
I will soothe your primal fears  
Throw off those chains of Reason  
And your prison disappears'

*The cities were abandoned  
And the forests echoed song  
They danced and lived as brothers;  
They knew Love could not be wrong*

*Food and wine they had aplenty  
And they slept beneath the stars  
The people were contented  
And the Gods watched from afar*

*But the winter fell upon them  
And it caught them unprepared  
Bringing wolves and cold starvation  
And the hearts of men despaired...*

### IV. Armageddon *The Battle of Heart and Mind* (3:06)

The Universe divided  
As the Heart and Mind collided  
With the people left unguided  
For so many troubled years  
In a cloud of doubts and fears  
Their world was torn asunder  
Into hollow hemispheres

Some fought themselves, some fought each other  
Most just followed one another  
Lost and aimless like their brothers  
For their Hearts were so unclear  
And the Truth could not appear  
Their spirits were divided  
Into blinded hemispheres

*Some who did not fight  
Brought tales of old to light  
My 'Rocinante' sailed by night  
On her final flight  
To the heart of Cygnus' fearsome force  
We set our course  
Spiralled through that timeless space  
To this immortal place*

### V. Cygnus *Bringer of Balance* (4:05)

*I have memory and awareness  
But I have no shape or form  
As a disembodied spirit  
I am dead and yet unborn*

*I have passed into Olympus  
As was told in tales of old  
To the city of Immortals  
Marble white and purest gold*

*I see the Gods in battle rage on high  
Thunderbolts across the sky  
I cannot move, I cannot hide  
I feel a silent scream begin inside*

Then all at once the Chaos ceased  
A stillness fell, a sudden peace  
The Warriors felt my silent cry  
And stayed their struggle, mystified

Apollo was atonished  
Dionysus thought me mad  
But they heard my story further  
And they wondered, and were sad

Looking down from Olympus  
On a world of doubt and fear  
Its surface splintered  
Into sorry hemispheres

They sat a while in silence  
Then they turned at last to me  
'We will call you Cygnus,  
The god of Balance you shall be'

#### VI. The Sphere *A Kind of Dream* (1:05)

We can walk our road together  
If our goals are all the same  
We can run alone and free  
If we pursue a different aim

Let the truth of love be lighted  
Let the love of truth shine clear  
Sensibility  
Armed with sense and liberty  
With the Heart and Mind united  
In a single perfect sphere

#### Circumstances (3:41)

A boy alone, so far from home  
Endless rooftops from my window  
I felt the gloom of empty rooms  
On rainy afternoons

Sometimes in confusion  
I felt so lost and disillusioned  
Innocence gave me confidence  
To go up against reality

All the same, we take our chances  
Laughed at by Time  
Tricked by Circumstances  
Plus ca change  
Plus c'est la meme chose  
The more that things change  
The more they stay the same

Now I've gained some understanding  
Of the only world that we see  
Things that I once dreamed of  
Have become reality

These walls that still surround me  
Still contain the same old me  
Just one more who's searching for  
A world that ought to be

#### The Trees (4:46)

There is unrest in the forest  
There is trouble with the trees  
For the Maples want more sunlight  
And the Oaks ignore their pleas

The trouble with the Maples  
(And they're quite convinced they're right)  
They say the Oaks are just too lofty  
And they grab up all the light  
But the Oaks can't help their feelings  
If they like the way they're made  
And they wonder why the Maples  
Can't be happy in their shade?

There is trouble in the forest  
And the creatures all have fled  
As the Maples scream 'Oppression!'  
And the Oaks, just shake their heads

So the Maples formed a Union  
And demanded equal rights  
'The Oaks are just too greedy  
We will make them give us light'  
Now there's no more Oak oppression  
For they passed a noble law  
And the trees are all kept equal  
By hatchet,  
Axe,  
And saw...

#### La Villa Strangiato (instrumental 9:35)

(An Exercise in Self-Indulgence)  
I. Buenos Nochas, Mein Froinds! (0:00)  
II. To sleep, perchance to dream... (0:27)  
III. Strangiato theme (2:00)  
IV. A Lerxst in Wonderland (3:16)  
V. Monsters! (5:49)  
VI. The Ghost of the Aragon (6:10)  
VII. Danforth and Pape (6:45)  
VIII. The Waltz of the Shreves (7:26)  
IX. Never turn your back on a Monster! (7:52)  
X. Monsters! (Reprise) (8:03)  
XI. Strangiato theme (Reprise) (8:17)  
XII. A Farewell to Things (9:17)

Geddy Lee - Bass/Acoustic Guitar/  
Mini-Moog/Bass Pedals/Vocals  
Alex Lifeson - Acoustic and  
Electric Guitars/Bass Pedals  
Neil Peart - Drums/Percussion

Music by Lee and Lifeson, except  
"La Villa Strangiato" by Lee, Lifeson and Peart  
Lyrics by Peart

Produced by Rush and Terry Brown  
Engineered by Pat Moran and Terry Brown

Mercury, October 29, 1978



## Notes:

- Certified Gold by RIAA: December 14, 1978 - Certified Platinum: December 1, 1993 - Highest Billboard Chart Position: 47
- "We spent more time recording 'Strangiato' than the entire *Fly By Night* album. It's recorded in one take but it took 40 takes to get it right! It was our first piece without any vocals at all. So each section had to stand up with a theme and musical structure of its own." - Geddy Lee, *Visions*
- The remastered cd edition contains a reproduction of the poster originally included with the album. When folded closed, the outside shows "Rush Hemispheres" text printed in red and yellow on a black background. Most copies have this insert placed behind the front cover in the cd case, but apparently some copies have this insert toward the front.
- "'The Trees'...that song was a parable about collectivism." - Neil Peart, *Roadshow*