

# Man of Iron

Bathory

I have paced these forests for so long I don't know if I am man  
or I am beast.

I, though, hold deep within me a quest for revenge.  
Then I must be a man as much as I can be.

I have learned to speak the tongue of the animal  
I have learned to read the signs in bark and snow.  
I have taken within myself the spirits of my fathers,  
long time gone.  
In this short time, far from home, a man of Iron I've grown.  
A man of Iron I have grown.

A part of the Eternal Woods...  
Late evening...

["Just after sunset on his way back to his camp after watching  
the sun unite]  
[with the mountains in the west, he sees the flickering of light  
between the]  
[tree trunks. Approaching, he sees an old man sitting calmly by  
a fire, as]  
[if waiting for him. His left eye missing. His beard as if gold  
. The signs]  
[on his cloak and hood familiar. The one eyed old man matches the]  
[description of the soothsayer, as told by the elders of his village by the]  
[fires at night when he only a child. The boy, now a young man,  
eager to]  
[know, asks the one eyed old man about his dreams. Dreams he cannot]  
[understand. Dreams about strange things he is seeing himself doing. Then]  
[the winds that seem to talk to him. Voices that whisper to him  
behind his]  
[back. The one eyed old man tells him of the cycles of the stars, of the]  
[trail of fate and of the valley where time and space had ceased to exist...]  
[where his world ends and the shadows begin. The one eyed old man tells the]  
[young man that fate has chosen him to interfere with the other  
world. The]  
[disturbance is already made. The daughters of the four winds have sold]  
[themselves to the shadows, distorting the balance of the universe. And the]  
[one eyed old man says he has seen him come for a thousand year

s, and that]

[the aging gods have told him to teach him all that he has ever known and to]

[prepare him to ride beyond his world and into the shadows as their champion]

[to restore the balance. To his aid he shall be given a sword forged when]

[this world was young. He shall be guarded and guided by two ravens, and he]

[shall ride the eight-

legged stallion of his fathers' god. He will encounter]

[the Woodwoman, and he will make a visit to the Lake. One hundred days and]

[one hundred nights his training shall be hard. And this very night it will]

[already have begun.]

[And thus he had met the One Eyed old Man..." ]