

# The Essential Salts

Nile

The necromancers of Giza  
A cult of reanimators  
Concerned with interrogation of the long dead  
Corpses who may be revived and made to talk  
And describe the contents of rare books  
And gold hidden in the earth  
Although they are often reluctant to reveal their secrets  
And must be encouraged with fire and blade

A corpse chosen for resurrection  
Is cut into parts of convenient size  
Boiled in clean water  
Linen strips of mummification are removed  
And the skull and bones liquefied  
And boiled until all water is gone  
What remains in the bottom  
Is a white crystalline substance  
That may be carried in the palms of two hands  
This white powder contains the essential salts  
Of the man whose corpse was boiled  
It is from this powder that the living body may be reconstituted  
And made to serve as a house for the soul  
Which is called back into its former flesh by words of power

It is a great shock to the soul  
To tear it back from its resting place and reanimate it  
The resurrected are often insane and scream ceaselessly or dash themselves into walls  
If the salts are contaminated with the essence of other living beings  
When the mummy has been the breeding place of vermin  
The revitalization of the salts produces something  
That is part man and part whatever gnawed his corpse  
These horrors lack the faculty of speech  
Or their speech is crazed and bestial  
And must be immediately slain  
For though the memory of the man may remain intact  
The verminous parts of his reanimated nature  
Inhibit his human expression

Those who have served their purpose are killed  
By strangulation with a cord around the neck  
And their bodies burned  
Their ashes gathered and cast into the Nile  
Where the currents carry them to sea

[solo: Dallas]