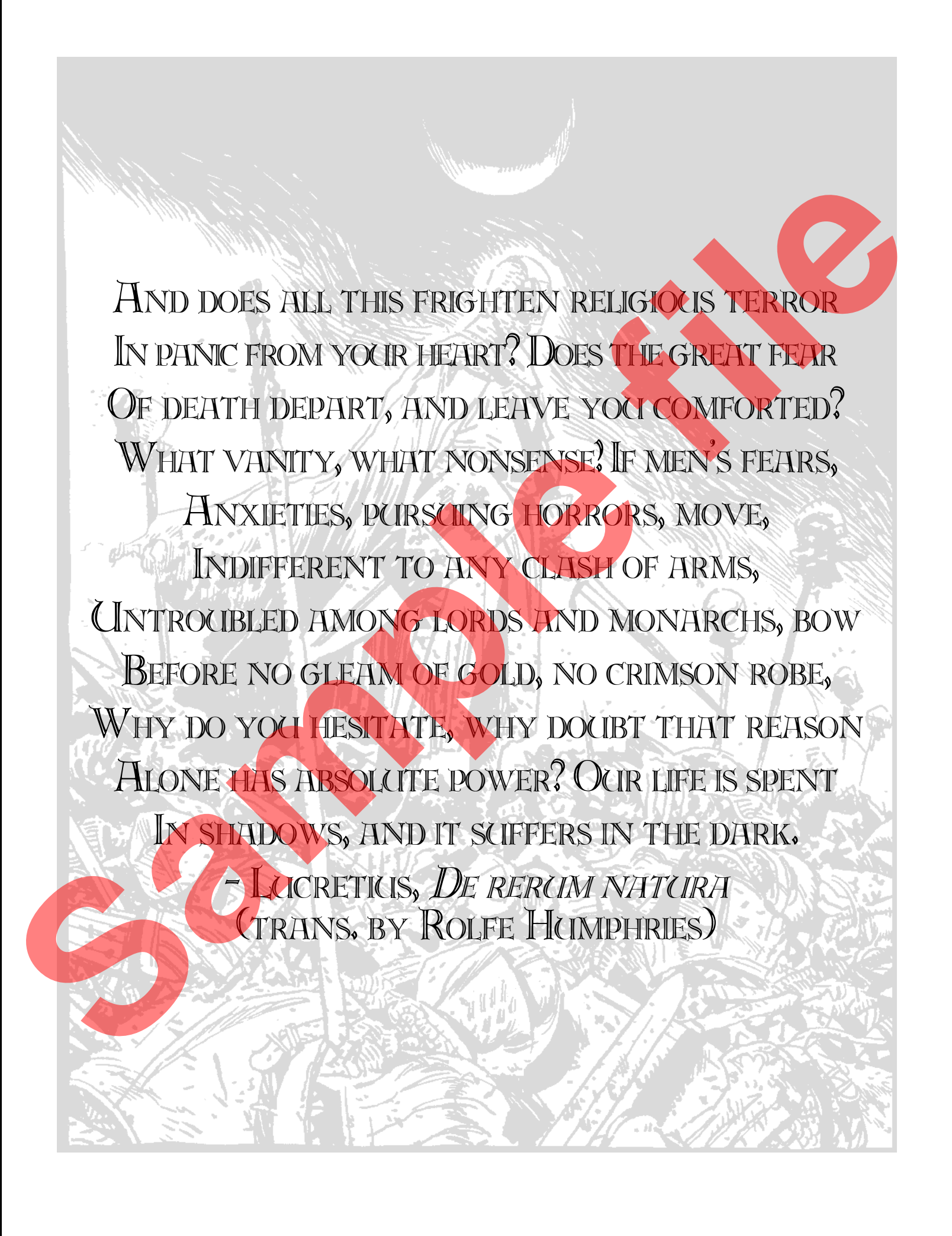


The Ashen Knight™

BY ROBERT BARRETT, BRUCE BAUGH, RICHARD E. DANSKY
AND WENDY L. GASH





AND DOES ALL THIS FRIGHTEN RELIGIOUS TERROR
IN PANIC FROM YOUR HEART? DOES THE GREAT FEAR
OF DEATH DEPART, AND LEAVE YOU COMFORTED?
WHAT VANITY, WHAT NONSENSE? IF MEN'S FEARS,
ANXIETIES, PURSUING HORRORS, MOVE,
INDIFFERENT TO ANY CLASH OF ARMS,
UNTROUBLED AMONG LORDS AND MONARCHS, BOW
BEFORE NO GLEAM OF GOLD, NO CRIMSON ROBE,
WHY DO YOU HESITATE, WHY DOUBT THAT REASON
ALONE HAS ABSOLUTE POWER? OUR LIFE IS SPENT
IN SHADOWS, AND IT SUFFERS IN THE DARK.

- LUCRETICIUS, *DE RERUM NATURA*
(TRANS. BY ROLFE HUMPHRIES)

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