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Both Sides

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My soul subjugated by my counterpart,
a counterfeit, a forgery of a man
molded by a mask concealing nothing,
but vacant sunken eyes of defeat,
for ignorance is blissful to my ears.

The aroma of the valley has been replaced
by the enduring fires and the stench of ash,
for I am burning up inside,
for I **need** to shriek, I **need** to cry out.

A deathly ghost skinned alive
wearing the red crown of hatred,
misery at the center, with the agony of losing
my honest heart that is buried in chains.

The whispers just beyond the black door
echo within my chamber of nightmares,
dissonant, perennially forgotten meanings
scattered along the walls of my hollow brain.

I **must** refine myself, I **must** improve,
these voices cannot reach me just yet.
For now, I will snatch another slice of cake,
and wish upon the day I decide to spit it out.

Damien Mendez. *Both Sides*. Photography.

