1979

The Corpse of Urien

Wesli Court

Follow this and additional works at: http://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.2498

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.
The Corpse of Urien · Wesli Court

From the ancient Welsh

The handsome corpse is laid down today,
Laid under this earth and stone—
Curse my fist! Owain’s sire slain!

The handsome corpse is now broken
In the earth, under the oak—
Curse my fist! My kinsman struck!

The handsome corpse is bereft at last,
Fast in the stone he is left—
Curse my fist! My fate is cleft!

The handsome corpse is rewarded thus,
In the dust, under greensward—
Curse my fist! Cynfarch’s son gored!

The handsome corpse is abandoned here
Under this sod, this gravestone—
Curse my fist! My liege-lord gone!

The handsome corpse is here locked away,
Made to rest beneath the rock—
Curse my fist! How the weirds knock!

The handsome corpse is settled in earth
Beneath vervain and nettle—
Curse my fist! Hear fate rattle!

The handsome corpse is laid down today,
Laid under this earth and stone—
Curse my fist! This fate was mine!