

# Weird Tales

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# Épigramme Pour un Livre Condamné

By CHARLES BAUDELAIRE

*(Translated by Clark Ashton Smith)*

Bucolic reader, reader wholly  
Simple, sober and benign,  
Cast down this volume saturnine  
And orgiaque and melancholy.

If thou hast learned no lessonry  
Of Satan, wileful dean and wise,  
Herein were naught for thy surmise,  
And madness were my words to thee.

But if thy vision, unbeguiled,  
Can dive adown the gulfs of hell,  
Read me, and learn to love me well;

Tormented soul, alone, exiled,  
And fain of some lost realm divine,  
Pity me . . . lest my curse be thine.