

“In the Valley”

By David Xi '21

Honorable Mention - Poetry

In the valley of surreptitious desire
A wandering shadow, masked in piercing agony
Echoes the suffocating, the lost, the fire
Its twisted soul, tremulous and treacherous—a blasphemy
Like the gravel underneath: broken, forgotten, the sealed destiny

Then, out of nowhere, light—a call of fate
The shadow runs through the desperate wailings, the eternal curses
And the withering pities of the Limbo and the Damned—their envy, their hate
Next to a pond it sees the light, whose alluring power disperses
the haunting mist, seducing its pride with irresistible forces

That light, redemption! The epiphany of its existence
Walking towards the sparkling mirror in anticipation
It steps out of the shadow—out of itself—revealing its ghastly appearance
But it sees no reflection, for no child of darkness shall receive salvation
Only the mark of its ignorant guilt and forced confession

Far away, the night starts to recede
Yet the wailing persisted, becoming even more afflicted and twisted
And all the shadows, embracing the final judgement of their misdeed
Are gone like they’ve never existed