

Lanterns' Eve

By Nikos Gaitanopoulos

Lanterns' Eve, it's here again
Don't forget to treat the dead
Lantern's Eve, night of dread
Lest they will trick you instead

Time's now to spare some sweets
For the little specters seek treats
But there is another task
A most important – if you ask

In the streets the little ones rush
Faces hidden under masks
Jacks o' Lanterns meet scarecrows
Witches gather bands of trows

On each door they do knock
On each doorstep will they flock
But expect to see none out
When it's nearing midnight hour

Tick – tack – flows time
No one sings the well-known rhyme
Shut the door and slam its latch
Something else is on the march

Every year in such a night
The moon fades, the soil feels light
And be sure that until dawn
You'll offer what the dead want

Drapes of mist the trees engulf
Eerie cries, unworldly laughs
From the graveyard they do soar
In the moonlight, ghostly horde

The undertaker starts to drink
Closes eyes, tries not to think
On his doorstep lies a mask
For he knows what the dead ask

Nothing pierces the night's gown
The lost kids flood into town
Like an ocean fill the streets
The wind moans and with them weeps

And inside every house
Silence reigns from man to mouse
They just pray and only hope
That there's no knock on the door

From the window shades
Dare only peek the brave
Listening to the song
That the faceless sing along

"Hollow night, lantern's eve
Let's visit those who live
Trick them or claim their treat
Into memory we won't drift"

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