

## Spires, the Wailing City

### The Ruins of Beverast

Now it happened in the city of Spires, in the same year that this book was begun, that a certain devout woman held conversation with a suspected witch, and, after the manner of women, they used abusive words to each other. But in the night she wished to put her little suckling child in its cradle, and remembered her encounter that day with the suspected witch. So, fearing some danger to the child, she placed consecrated herbs under it, sprinkled it with holy water, put a little blessed salt to its lips, signed it with the sign of the cross, and diligently secured the cradle. About the middle of the night she heard the child scream...  
Is it a goatish gorge I smell there on thy pale maiden flesh?  
Art thou willing to deny the Anomalous Woman - the deamon lendeth a hand  
Hast thou murdered unchristened children, and anointed their limbs?  
Hast thou received burning semen inside the womb  
O young gentle witch of mine...?  
He seemeth not disposed to lose his potency  
And deformed hands ruin her progeny  
His sinful phallus treacherously disenchanted  
Ecce veritatem dico sciens quod dum auditores sint verbi  
et non factores amplius deus offendit et lucrum meum augmentatur.  
And it came to pass at a night in Rome  
That I dined with a Bohemian Priest.  
Who so weebegone moaned about a nameless tree, a female and a Daemon  
Who so afflicted screamed when tied to the columns of our saviour  
Who so calumnious mocked our Virgin in obsessive abuse of his limbs  
Perennially suffering... howling... crushing his teeth into the marble  
„Here he stood, here he stood!“