

Mural

In absence of Isis
a hierophant sets his
scant offering at a crude altar
before the tilted gateway of Her
ruined temple a sphinx-
crowned basalt
sarcophagus bars
the way to nothing.

A granite glacier
floats upon a sea of ash
and as Cassandra foretold Ilium's
ruin, no one heeds, escapes
the wrath of Vesuvius –
our own
eschathon.

Return, O sister lover of the god
O Throne-crowned One
to loose your milky Nile
upon us
the doomed.

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Mural found in the ruins of the Temple of Isis in Pompeii. Artist unknown.