**THE FATHER'S DAUGHTER'S SONG**

by Cordwainer Smith

You do not know what the world is like, and I hope you never will.

My heart was once much full of hope, but now it is very still.

My wife went mad.

She was my love and wore my ring,

When both of us were young.

She bore my babes, but then, but then ...

And now there isn't anything.

My wife went mad.

Now she lives in another place,

Half sick, half well, and never young.

I am her dread, who was her love.

Each of us has another face.

My wife went mad.

You do not know what the world is like;

War is never the worst of it.

The stars within your eyes can drop;

The lightning in your brain can strike.

My wife went mad.

[refers to parents of Lavinia, wife of Rod McBane CLI, who saved him from the Onseck's sparrow]