

Visuals:

The footage is mostly made of clips that I took for a project last year, that I did not end up using. Some was taken for the sake of this project, specifically the footage that was overlayed on top.

I edited it by turning it all black & white, while overlaying specific clips over top the base footage (walking down the trail). I used my DSLR camera to film the trail footage and my phone camera to film extra stuff.

The visuals, while not being literally what is described in the poem/voiceover, convey a desolate journey. The monochrome colors and high-contrast (mostly blacks and greys) help with this tone of despair.

1. Voiceover (Poem):

I journeyed, long in walking, far beyond the place of stopping
Where there was no more returning to the people I had known.
I saw the world forgotten, where the grass gives up on growing
And I knew that I would never make another journey home.

Upon that fleshy plain, below the final rock outcropping
Stretched the vast and empty desert of the hungry, bleeding thing
Encompassing the earth to the horizon, all-consuming,
Crying in a thousand voices to its desolate god-king.

And the music of its crying, never dead, ever dying,
Sent me running in a madness I can scarce compare to fear,
Not to safety, but to silence - unto my own unmaking.
And yet now, upon awaking, once again the song I hear.

I long to taste the fruit of earth, I long for water quenching
Of my thirst, unending, nothing that remains can satisfy.
For my voice has joined the chorus ever more, ever mourning.
Ever singing, ever hungry. Ever dying, never die.

The tone I went for was bleak, depressing, and exhausted. I used a voice recording app on my phone for my voiceover. I also used a Zoom recorder to record my brother's additional

voice (though his tone didn't match what I was going for, so I only used his voice as an echo).

My voiceover serves as a framework for the visuals. It is the crux for the desolate mood that the visuals serve to emphasize more.

2. Music:

The music I used is royalty-free. It is "Evil Dreams" by Darren Curtis.

I should note that I slowed the song down quite a bit. The slower tempo and melody, along with the lower pitch, help better convey depression and exhaustion (rather than fear as the original was likely intended to make you feel).

3. Ambient Sound:

The ambience was recorded in a kitchen of one of the dorms (as is clear in some of the background sounds). I recorded it with my phone. When slowed down, the ambience sounds more like wind, which is often used in bleak settings within film. I wanted to channel some of that in this project.