

I've walked these roads

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe – © Ólafur Andersson

I've walked these roads,
I know the signs.
I've seen the truth
behind the shine.

What looks like gold
is often thin.
I know the price
of both directions.

Es irrt der Mensch,
solang er strebt.

I know the way.
I know the cost.
The easy road
leads into loss.

The rugged path
gives me my soul.
It may take all —
but makes me whole.

I've learned so much,
I could rule nations.
I've learned so much,
I could raise nations with it.

I share with you
all that I know.
Believe me now —
love leads the way.
I choose the good road.

Was ich erkannt,
ich kann es nicht verlieren;
Und was ich nicht erkannt,
das fehlt mir sehr.

I choose the road
God meant for me.
I need no gold
from Mephisto's hand.
No earthly power,
I turn away.

I choose the road
that costs me more.
It leads through pain —
but not to war.

Die Welt ist alles, was der Fall ist.

Do not forget! Do not forget,
Do not forget, do not forget
Do not forget, do not forget my friends!