

Arthur, I will not go away; I will stay till you are well enough to come with me to our home. I am not easily susceptible to disease, and I do not fear this. I am strong and healthy, but of course I am only human, and if I am afflicted, and it is the will of Him who has endowed me with what you are pleased to call beauty, to take it from me, I am resigned."

"Eva," he said, after a moment's pause, "it is only now that I realize how unworthy I was of you. You have reached the highest pinnacle of womanly heroism, and happiness will come to you for you deserve it. I am dying, Eva. I shall not see another sun set, but your example, your noble words, your sweet humility and self-renunciation have not been lost upon me. They have sunk deep into my heart, helping to enlighten my awakening faith, which I know was not entirely lost, but only sleeping. I have been the destroyer of my own happiness. My life has been a failure, as far as any good I have done for others is concerned. A misconception of science, together with a vanity I felt in what I thought my own cleverness, helped on by evil advisers, made me believe myself an atheist, until that day when I spoke to you about my blood-crying out for vengeance, and you asked me to whom old Abel's blood cry? I did not answer, and you asked me to whom old Abel's blood cry? I tried not to answer then, but the words seemed to be forced from me by some power stronger than my own, and I answered, to God! In that moment my will bowed in humble submission to Him who owns it, and the light of faith once more flooded my soul."

"The words were spoken slowly and in a very weak voice, and more than once he had to pause for breath. "And now, Eva, my dear wife," he went on, "I have made what preparation I could for death, and I am calmly waiting for the end. As I said some time ago, my life is made up of broken chords and I feel no regret at parting with it."

All night Eva remained at his bedside, and when the morning sun was flooding the earth with the light of another day, her husband's soul had taken its departure from the world, where, by his own mistakes, he had been so unhappy.