

The Leader

He's a mouthy, ornery old man publicly, pathetically flailing his soul about
Sounding for an anchor, or the appearance of having one
So he and his can believe he and they have something to hold on to
Against the nearing waves that wash away time
Waves that splash and crash, then grab, then drag to death
The waves will win, perhaps even tomorrow

He's a Godless person who sailed life's waters steered solely by his obsessive pride
Untamed, life-long greed left him only one hope for any life-earned acquittals
Calling to the Devil, the only Eternity that would listen anymore
The Great Deceiver, who invites with joyful draw-you-in promises
And comforts with enticing not-so-backed-up assurances

"Trust me," He laughs, and laughs, and laughs. "Deception is so fulfilling!"
There's joy in a man's lifetime of the practiced art of deception
There's satisfaction in counting one's accumulated accomplished feats of deceit
But one has to be among the living to have an audience for such
"Trust in Me and accept My hopes for your tomorrow," says Lucifer
The lies of men survive only in the past; the lies of Satan exist nowhere in the future
In death, there is only truth

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A fiery destination for practitioners of deception is an age old story line. The Book of Revelation is probably the best known commentary on that. Liars are doomed. Most people have read it or had it preached to them. Revelation was written soon after the crucifixion of Christ, which makes the story 2000 years old. You likely have heard also of Dante's *Inferno*, a part of the three-part *Divine Comedy* written by Italy's foremost poet, Dante Alighieri. This major literary work is Dante's account of his guided tour through Hell. We have been reading it for 700 years. Then there are Aesop's fables, hundreds of orally transmitted tales invented before Aesop lived. He collected them and wrote them down, about 2600 years ago. But he is generally believed to be only a legendary figure. While the fables don't talk about fire and brimstone, they do describe the twists of fate that can happen in the here and now to those who often outsmart themselves in their pursuits of the immoral. Deception and dishonesty have been clearly condemned throughout the entire history of mankind. And what persons do you think always have had access to the most people to do the most deceiving of them? The people's leaders, of course.

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