

Milton, "poetry would be made . . . more simple, sensuous, and passionate," *Tractate of Education* (1644)

Shakespeare sonnets XCVII and LXXIII (published 1609)

How like a Winter hath my absence been
From thee, the pleasure of the fleeting year!
What freezings have I felt, what dark days seen!
What old December's bareness everywhere!
And yet this time remov'd was summer's time;
The teeming Autumn, big with rich increase,
Bearing the wanton burthen of the prime,
Like widow'd wombs after their lords' decease:
Yet this abundant issue seem'd to me
But hope of orphans and unfather'd fruit;
For Summer and his pleasures wait on thee,
And, thou away, the very birds are mute:
Or if they sing, 'tis with so dull a cheer
That leaves look pale, dreading the Winter's near.

That time of year thou mayst in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.
In me thou see'st the twilight of such day
As after sunset fadeth in the west,
Which by and by black night doth take away,
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,
As the death-bed whereon it must expire,
Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by.
This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,
To love that well, which thou must leave ere long.

Dylan Thomas (1914-1953), "A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London"

Never until the mankind making
Bird beast and flower
Fathering and all humbling darkness
Tells with silence the last light breaking
And the still hour
Is come of the sea tumbling in harness

And I must enter again the round
Zion of the water bead
And the synagogue of the ear of corn
Shall I let pray the shadow of a sound
Or sow my salt seed
In the least valley of sackcloth to mourn

The majesty and burning of the child's death.
I shall not murder
The mankind of her going with a grave truth
Nor blaspheme down the stations of the breath
With any further
Elegy of innocence and youth.

Deep with the first dead lies London's daughter,
Robed in the long friends,
The grains beyond age, the dark veins of her mother,
Secret by the unmourning water
Of the riding Thames.
After the first death, there is no other.

Psalm114, Sternhold & Hopkins (BCP, 1562)

- 1 When Israel by God's command
from Pharaoh's land was bent,
And Jacob's house the strangers left,
and in the same train went:
- 2 In Judah God his glory showed,
his holiness most bright;;
So did the Israelites declare
his kingdom, pow'r, and might.
- 3 The sea saw it, and suddenly,
as all amazed did fly;
The roaring streams of Jordan s flood
gave back immediately,
- 4 As rams afraid, the mountains skipped,
their strength did them forsake;
And as the Silly trembling lambs,
their tops did beat and shake.
- 5 What ailed thee, O sea, that thou
so suddenly didst fly?
Ye rolling waves of Jordan's flood,
why turned ye so swiftly?
- 6 Ye mountains, e'en as rams afraid,
why did your strength so shake?
Why did your tops, as trembling lambs,
quiver with fear, and quake?
- 7 O earth, confess thy sov'reign Lord,
and dread his mighty hand;
Before the face of Jacob's God,
fear ye both sea and land.
- 8 I mean the God, who from hard rocks
caused floods to appear,
And from the stony flint doth send
fountains of water clear.

Psalm136, Sternhold & Hopkins (BCP, 1562)

- 1 Praise ye the Lord, for he is good;
for his mercy endureth for ever.
- 2 Give praise unto the God of gods;
for his mercy, &c.
- 3 Give praise unto the Lord of lords;
for his mercy, &c.
- 4 Who only doth great wondrous works;
for his mercy, &c.
- 5 Who by his wisdom made the heavens;
for his mercy, &c.
- 6 Who on the waters stretched the earth;
for his mercy, &c.
- 7 Who made great lights to shine abroad;
for his mercy, &c.
- 8 The sun to rule the lightsome day;
for his mercy, &c.
- 9 The moon and stars to rule the night;
for his mercy, &c.

- 10 Who Egypt smote with the first-born;
for his mercy, &c.
- 11 And Israel brought out from thence;
for his mercy, &c.
- 12 With mighty hand and out-stretched arm;
for his mercy, &c.
- 13 Who cut the Red Sea in two parts;
for his mercy, &c.
- 14 And Israel made to pass through;
for his mercy, &c.
- 15 And drowned Pharaoh and his host;
for his mercy, &c.
- 16 Through wilderness his people led;
for his mercy, &c.
- 17 Who did smite great and noble kings;
for his mercy, &c.
- 18 Yea, and also slew mighty kings;
for his mercy, &c.
- 19 Sehon king of the Amorltes;
for his mercy, &c,
- 20 And Og the king of Basan land;
for his mercy, &c.
- 21 And gave their land for heritage;
for his mercy, &c.
- 22 Even to his servant Israel;
for his mercy, &c.
- 23 Rememb'ring us in low estate;
for his mercy, &c.
- 24 And from oppressors rescued us;
for his mercy, &c.
- 25 Who giveth food unto all flesh;
for his mercy, &c.
- 26 Praise ye the Lord of heav'n above;
for his mercy, &c.
- 27 Give thanks unto the Lord of lords;
for his mercy endureth forever.

Collect for Ash Wednesday (BCP, "Elizabethan,"
1559)

ALMIGHTYE and everlastyng God, whiche hatest
nothyng that thou haste made, and doest forgeve
the sinnes of all them that be penitente; Creat and
make in us newe and contrite heartes, that wee
worthely lamentyng oure synnes, and knowlegyng
our wretchednes, maye obtaine of thee, the God of
all mercye, perfect remission and forgevenes;
thorough Jesus Christ.