

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the theme of the three selected poems of John Donne's through diction, I would like to draw some conclusions in this chapter. It is apparent that in this three selected poems of John Donne's, the persona in the poem expresses his insecurities and fears of being dragged to hell after he dies because he has committed too much sin. The persona in the three selected poems feels weak to fight the temptation to do sin, which causes him to beg God to forgive him, purify his soul, and so that he can be completely free from sin. The three selected poems show that although humans believe in God, they will still feel insecure because of the existence of evil and sin. This feeling is due to their fear of going to hell because they have committed too much sin. Therefore, they will beg for God's mercy to save their soul, protect them against sin, and forget their sin.

The theme of the first poem, "Batter My Heart, Three Person'd God" is "One may ask God to do harsh things upon one in order to free one from sin." The words that show the theme are "batter," "three-person'd God," "break," "blow,"

“burn,” “make me new,” “o’erthrow,” “bend,” “divorce,” “untie,” “imprison,” “chaste,” and “ravish.” The use of the words “batter,” “break,” “blow,” “burn,” “o’erthrow,” “bend,” and “ravish” help the reader to understand the harsh things that the persona in the poem wants from God. Meanwhile, the words “make me new,” “divorce,” “untie,” “imprison,” and “chaste” help the reader to understand that the persona in the poem wants to be completely free from sin. Thus, these words suggest that people will beg for God’s harsh acts in order to make them a completely new person without sin.

The theme of the second poem, “Thou Hast Made Me, and Shall Thy Work Decay?” is “On deathbed, one may beg God to save one’s soul due to fear of going to hell.” The words that show the theme are “decay,” “repair,” “now,” “run to death,” “dim eyes,” “dare not,” “despair,” “such terror,” “feeble flesh,” “by sin in it,” and “towards hell doth weigh.” The words “decay,” “repair,” “feeble flesh,” and “by sin in it” show that the persona’s soul is filled with sin and he wants God to wash away his sin. The words “run to death” and “dim eyes” show that the persona is in critical condition. While the words “now,” “dare not,” “despair,” “such terror,” and “towards hell doth weigh” make the reader understand the persona’s fear of going to hell. These words suggest that people will beg for God’s salvation so that they will not be dragged to hell after they die.

Furthermore, the theme of the third poem, “If Poisonous Minerals,” is “One may question God’s mercy but one should surrender to God and ask Him to forgive and forget one’s sin.” The words that show the theme are “why should?” “mercy,” “who am I?” “dispute,” “Lethan flood,” “drown,” “claim as debt,” and “forget.” The words “why should?” and “dispute” show that the persona is doubting God.

The words “who am I?” and “drown” make the reader understand that the persona surrenders to God. While the words “Lethian flood,” “claim as debt,” and “forget” help the readers to understand that the persona wants God to forgive and forget his sin. Thus, these words suggest that people may doubt God, but they should surrender to Him as God will grant His forgiveness to His children and forget their sin.

From the explanation of the themes of the three poems above, I find two significant similarities. First, it is apparent that the main focus of the three poems is the persona’s insecurities and fears towards the existence of evil and sin, as the three poems express the persona’s weakness to fight the strong temptation to do sin. The persona in the first poem begs for harsh ways to God for he feels that the gentle ways cannot free him from sin. In the second poem, the persona begs for God’s salvation to prevent him to go to hell. In the third poem, the persona surrenders to God in the hope that He will grant His forgiveness and will forget his sin. Second, the three poems show that the persona believes God so much as he feels that only God can save him from evil and sin. The first poem shows the persona’s faith that by God’s harshness, he will be completely free from sin. In the second poem, the persona believes that God’s grace will save his soul from the evil’s temptation. The third poem shows that God will grant His forgiveness to those who surrender unto God, and He will forget their sin

Apart from the similarities above, there is a difference between the three poems when the persona in the three poems presents some desire differently. The persona in the first poem has a desire to be completely free from sin. In the second

poem, the persona has a desire not to be dragged to hell. While the persona in the third poem has a desire that God will forgive him and forget his sin.

Based on the themes and the comparison of the contents of the three poems, it is concluded that no matter how strongly people believe in God, they will still feel insecure and afraid of being dragged to hell after they die. They feel that nothing can prevent them from doing sin as a human is too weak to fight the evil's temptation. In my opinion, the poet of the three poems wants to remind people, especially Christians, to always remember to repent and pray to God as nobody knows when and how one will die.

