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APPENDICES

John Donne’s Poems
“Batter My Heart, three-person’d God”

Batter my heart, three-person'd God; for you
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise, and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend
Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new.
I, like an usurp'd town, to another due,
Labour to admit you, but O, to no end.
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captived, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly I love you, and would be loved fain,
But am betroth'd unto your enemy;
Divorce me, untie, or break that knot again,
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

“Thou Hast Made Me and Shall Thy Work Decay?”

Thou hast made me, and shall thy work decay?
Repair me now, for now mine end doth haste,
I run to death, and death meets me as fast,
And all my pleasures are like yesterday;
I dare not move my dim eyes any way,
Despair behind, and death before cast
Such terror, and my feebled flesh doth waste
By sin in it, which it towards hell doth weigh.
Only thou art above, and when towards thee
By thy leave I can look, I rise again;
But our old subtle foe so tempteth me,
That not one hour I can myself sustain;
Thy grace may wing me to prevent his art,
And thou like adamant draw mine iron heart.
“If Poisonous Minerals”

If poisonous minerals, and if that tree,
Whose fruit threw death on (else immortal) us,
If lecherous goats, if serpents envious
Cannot be damn’d, alas! why should I be?
Why should intent or reason, born in me,
Make sins, else equal, in me more heinous?
And, mercy being easy, and glorious
To God, in His stern wrath why threatens He?
But who am I, that dare dispute with Thee?
O God, O! of Thine only worthy blood,
And my tears, make a heavenly Lethean flood,
And drown in it my sin’s black memory.
That Thou remember them, some claim as debt;
I think it mercy if Thou wilt forget.

Biography of John Donne

John Donne was born in a prosperous Roman Catholic family on January 22, 1572 during a strong anti-Catholic era. His father, John Donne Senior, was a prosperous London merchant and died in 1576 while his mother, Elizabeth Heywood, is a grand-niece of a Catholic Martyr named Thomas More.

Donne entered the Oxford University at the age 11 and continued to University of Cambridge but because of his religion, he could not receive his degree. At the age of 20, he decided to study law at Lincoln’s Inn to prepare for his legal/diplomatic career. At the age of 25, John Donne became a private secretary of Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, Sir Thomas Egerton, for several years and then decided to convert to Anglican.

In the 1590s, he created two major volumes of work: Satires and Songs and Sonnets. The first two editions of John Donne religious poems were published posthumously in 1633 and 1635. In 1601, Donne published his anti-Catholic polemic Pseudo-Martyr that renounced his faith. In 1611, Donne printed his first
poem, an elegy for Sir Robert Drury's daughter. In 1617, Donne’s wife, Anne, died after giving birth of their 12th child.

John Donne died in London on March 31, 1631 because of stomach cancer. The last thing that Donne wrote before his death was “Hymne to God, my God, In my Sickness.” Devotions upon Emergent Occasions that he wrote in 1624 was considered as a powerful series of meditations, expostulations, and prayers in which Donne's serious sickness at the time made him obsessed with death.

Source: “John Donne”, “John Donne”, “Biography of John Donne”