

# CONSUMMATUM EST

Meditative Poem, with Scriptural References  
(Contributed)

1

It is finished he cried at length  
to whom exactly we cannot say  
to the uncomprehending lot of us perhaps  
and what is finished we want to ask  
the work of the Father his friends are told  
when for our good  
the Son of Man is lifted up  
by which he meant his death<sup>1</sup>.

2

How unlikely we think  
that good should rise from death  
though true enough that is how the germ bears fruit  
to fall to the earth and die<sup>2</sup>  
but Adam  
what good thing is said to come from him  
who gave us death that bitter fruit  
though some have called his fall, our loss  
a happy fault  
a chance for God  
to make of original blessing  
something far far better still.

3

How shall this be done the Woman said<sup>3</sup>  
not Eve<sup>4</sup>  
but she who was asked to undo Eve's deed  
simple fiat<sup>5</sup>  
to begin the unraveling of what went wrong  
and a Son  
to complete the work  
begun in a Virgin's womb<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Jn 12:32-33, "He said this to show by what death he meant to die."

<sup>2</sup> Jn 12:24, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

<sup>3</sup> Lk 1:34, "And Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be done, since I have no husband?'"

<sup>4</sup> Gen 3: 20, "The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living."

<sup>5</sup> Lk 1:38, "Let it be done to me according to your word."

<sup>6</sup> Isaiah 7:14, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel."

4

And why, we ask, a virgin's womb?  
only the friends will understand  
she who is to bear undreamt of life  
shall be spotless<sup>7</sup>  
from the moment of her conception  
as Adam's earth<sup>8</sup>  
where first the Spirit came to rest<sup>9</sup>  
Immaculata  
oh, womb that renews Adam  
where the Spirit of the Lord  
the Giver of Life  
will place its gift<sup>10</sup>.

5

New born Adam, where are you going, what will you do?  
those called to his friendship understand the tale--  
the first man Adam  
blessed with a well-watered garden<sup>11</sup>  
a tree of life at its lovely heart<sup>12</sup>  
a most worthy companion to share<sup>13</sup>  
and trees whereof to eat<sup>14</sup>  
save the one that held visions  
good and evil<sup>15</sup>  
of dark things forbidden  
and innocence to be lost  
should they eat thereof  
which they did<sup>16</sup>.

6

Closed now the garden<sup>17</sup>  
tree of life fiercely barred<sup>18</sup>  
cursed be evil<sup>19</sup>  
for the death it has wrought<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Lk 2:28, ". . . the angel Gabriel . . . came to her and said, 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!'"

<sup>8</sup> Gen 1:10, "And God saw that it was good."

<sup>9</sup> Gen 2:7, ". . . then the Lord formed man of the dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

<sup>10</sup> Lk 1:3, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

<sup>11</sup> Gen 2:8, "And the Lord planted a garden in Eden . . . and there he put the man he had formed. . . ."

<sup>12</sup> Gen 2:9, ". . . a tree of life . . . in its midst."

<sup>13</sup> Gen 2:18, ". . . the Lord God said, 'It is not right for man to be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"

<sup>14</sup> Gen 2:9, ". . . the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food."

<sup>15</sup> Gen 3:3, 5, ". . . knowing good and evil . . ."

<sup>16</sup> Gen 3:7, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked. . . ."

<sup>17</sup> Gen 3:24, "He drove out the man. . . ."

<sup>18</sup> Gen 3:24, ". . . he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword . . . to guard the tree of life."

<sup>19</sup> Gen 3:14, "Because you have done this, cursed are you. . . ."

<sup>20</sup> Gen 2:17, ". . . for in the day that you eat it, you shall surely die." Wisdom 2:24, ". . . by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who are in his possession experience it."

but you, Adam and Eve,  
you who when bidden failed truth<sup>21</sup>  
tell us plainly now  
when Mercy clothed your nakedness with skins<sup>22</sup>  
was it a lamb's death that clothed you  
foretelling the death of  
One who is to Come?<sup>23</sup>

7

The One makes his way to the desolate garden<sup>24</sup>  
from self to his Father's will<sup>25</sup>  
thrice fiat<sup>26</sup>  
to agony unfathomed<sup>27</sup>  
alone without friend<sup>28</sup>  
truth unbidden steps forth<sup>29</sup>  
to be taken<sup>30</sup>  
skin flayed<sup>31</sup>  
stripped naked<sup>32</sup>  
lifted up  
to the tree<sup>33</sup> betwixt good and evil<sup>34</sup>  
where, behold,  
one will find Mercy<sup>35</sup>  
but Oh at what cost!  
Oh at what cost!

8

Cold and lonely is death  
sin's wage<sup>36</sup>  
for all Adam's children  
save the Mother Most Blessed  
who cannot die, being pierced<sup>37</sup>, only slept

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<sup>21</sup> Gen 3:8-13, ". . . the man and his wife hid themselves . . . . The Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?' The man said . . . 'the woman . . . gave me fruit.' . . . The woman said . . . 'the serpent beguiled me, and I ate.'"

<sup>22</sup> Gen 3:21, "And the Lord made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them."

<sup>23</sup> Lk 7:19, "And John . . . sent them to the Lord, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come?'"

<sup>24</sup> Jn 18:1, "He went forth . . . where there was a garden, which he entered. . . ."

<sup>25</sup> Lk 22:42, ". . . not my will, but thine be done."

<sup>26</sup> Matt 26:44, "he . . . prayed for the third time, saying the same words."

<sup>27</sup> Mk 14:34, "My soul is very sorrowful, even unto death. . . ."

<sup>28</sup> Matt 26:40, "Could you not stay awake with me one hour?"

<sup>29</sup> Jn 18:4, "Jesus . . . came forward and said to them, 'Whom do you seek?'" Jn 8:6, "I am he."

<sup>30</sup> Lk 22:54, "Then they seized him and led him away. . . ."

<sup>31</sup> Jn 19:1, "Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him."

<sup>32</sup> Matt 27:35, ". . . they divided his clothes among themselves. . . ."

<sup>33</sup> Jn 19:17f, "So they took Jesus . . . to the place . . . which is called Golgotha. There they crucified him."

<sup>34</sup> Jn 19:18, ". . . and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them."

<sup>35</sup> Lk 23:42, "Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'" He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'"

<sup>36</sup> Gen 2:17, ". . . for in the day you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>37</sup> Lk 2:35, "And you yourself shall be pierced with a sword--so that thoughts out of many hearts might be laid bare."

and the Son  
who for reasons we must learn  
spreads out his arms to death.

9

And we who stand aside shall see<sup>38</sup>  
the thirsting death draw near<sup>39</sup>  
and Adam's sour fruit  
that origin of sin  
now lifted to these lips<sup>40</sup>  
he said he would not part<sup>41</sup>  
as Adam's did  
to work the last undoing.<sup>42</sup>

10

To heaven he shouts  
*It is finished!*  
the angel thrusts its flaming sword<sup>43</sup>  
unguarded now the tree of life<sup>44</sup>  
the old earth shakes its lonely graves<sup>45</sup>  
one morning soon<sup>46</sup>  
we understand  
it is as He said<sup>47</sup>  
*I have come that they may have life  
and have it  
more  
abundantly.*<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Lk 23:35, "And the people stood by, watching. . . ."

<sup>39</sup> Jn 19:28, "And Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), 'I thirst.'"

<sup>40</sup> 19:29, "A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar . . . and held it to his mouth."

<sup>41</sup> Lk 22:18, ". . . I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Mk 15:23, "And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it."

<sup>42</sup> Jn 19:30, "When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, 'It is finished'; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

<sup>43</sup> Jn 19:34, ". . . one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water."

<sup>44</sup> Rev. 22:14, "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates."

<sup>45</sup> Matt 27:51f, "The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. . . ."

<sup>46</sup> Jn 20:1, "Now on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, and saw that the stone had been taken away. Lk 24:5, ". . . the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.'"

<sup>47</sup> Lk 24:6, "Remember how he told you. . . that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

<sup>48</sup> Jn 10:10.