



Bicycles,  
Roller Skates,  
& Peanut Butter

Contemplative  
Verse #6



## Satan's Serpent (poem)

*In the shadows of the soul's deep night, where darkness mingles with fleeting light, A whispering serpent coils around, seeking to pull the spirit down.*

*The light once pure, now fades and dims, as self-deceit and pride begin. In outward brilliance, reason shines, yet falsehood lingers in its lines.*

*Beware the devil's subtle art, his false desires that snare the heart. For in the guise of righteous flame, he sows the seeds of sin and shame.*

*Cast off the veil of self-deceit, and at God's feet, lay your defeat. In humble silence, seek His grace, to guide you through this worldly maze.*

*For true light dwells in hearts resigned, to God's own will, not in the mind. and in the mercy of His care, find strength to rise from dark despair.*

The poem explores the idea of spiritual deception and the persistence of evil influences.

Here's a detailed explanation:

### 1. The Subtle Devil's Influence:

- The poem begins with the devil insinuating himself into a person's nature, bringing forth false or evil desires. This corrupts the individual's initial state of purity and divine connection, leading them to believe they are still guided by God, even though they are misled by their own self-centered desires.

### 2. Corruption of Divine Light:

- Where divine light once shone is spoiled by these false desires, resulting in the departure of God's light from the individual. This represents the loss of

spiritual purity due to succumbing to temptations and false beliefs.

### 3. **Outward Light vs. Divine Light:**

- Although the divine light has departed, the outward light of natural reason remains. This outward light gives the illusion of still possessing divine guidance, but it is merely the individual's own reasoning, not true spiritual enlightenment.

### 4. **Self-Exaltation and Deception:**

- In their self-exaltation and reliance on their own reason, the person becomes vulnerable to the devil's influence again. The devil returns with even stronger desires, as illustrated by the reference to Christ's teaching about the unclean spirit bringing back seven worse spirits.

### 5. **Worsened Spiritual State:**

- The person's spiritual state becomes worse than before because they now have an even stronger false sense of righteousness while being more deeply misled. The "*veil of self-deceit*," represents a person who appears clean and orderly but is inwardly filled with greater evil due to self-deception.

In summary, the poem warns about the dangers of spiritual complacency and self-reliance. It emphasizes that true divine guidance requires humility and constant vigilance against the devil's deceptions. The struggle between genuine spiritual light and the misleading outward light of human reason is a central theme, illustrating the ongoing battle for spiritual integrity.

## *The Devil prowls (poem)*

*In the quiet of the soul's domain, where Light of Reason we do gain, a spark of Love, divine and pure, unveils a path, a heart's allure.*

*Desires aligned with God's own will, in abstinence, the mind grows still, a cheerful Light begins to glow, as evil's shadow, far, must go.*

*The Devil prowls, but finds no gate, in barren lands of anger's state, for where God's Love and Light reside, no darkness, there, can ever bide.*

*Satan's whispers, they are weak, against a soul that God does seek, In Love's embrace, we stand so tall, Divine protection, over all.*

*The soul, transformed, is now a shield, where divine Light and Love have healed, a House swept clean, with wisdom bright, In Christ's embrace, we find our Light.*

The poem delves into the complex relationship between knowledge, reason, and the spiritual state of an individual.

Let's unpack it:

1. **Self and Reason:** Here, "Self" refers to an individual's sense of self and personal reasoning or intellect.
2. **Captivated and Fast Bound in a Close and Strong Prison:** This metaphor suggests that reason and self-awareness are confined or restricted within certain limitations or negative conditions.
3. **Very Dangerous for a Man to Make Use of the Light of Knowledge in Self:** This suggests that it is risky for someone to use their intellectual knowledge solely based on their own reasoning,

especially when that reasoning is influenced by negative spiritual or material conditions.

4. **As if it were in the Possession of Self:** This implies that individuals might mistakenly believe that their knowledge and understanding are entirely their own, without considering higher or spiritual truths.

In summary, the poem warns that relying solely on one's own reasoning and knowledge can be perilous if those faculties are trapped in negative spiritual or material conditions. It emphasizes the importance of humility and recognizing that true wisdom goes beyond mere intellectual understanding, requiring spiritual enlightenment and freedom from negative influences. The poem also points out a crucial distinction between understanding the concept of love and truly embodying the spirit of love.



*Two paths diverge in the realm of the heart, One leads to knowledge, one sets love apart. Doctrine of love, with words so precise, yet often they mask, the heart's true device.*

*In the halls of wisdom, minds gather bright, Debating the nature, the need for the light. Excellence, essence, all written in gold, yet empty the heart, if love's spirit is cold.*

*For knowing of love, is not the same, as living its flame, in life's tender game. One can be filled, with doctrines so grand, and still, without love, not truly understand.*

*So, seek not just words, or knowledge profound, but let love's true spirit, within you be found. For in the embrace, of love's gentle grace, we find the true meaning and feel its embrace.*

Therefore, it is necessary for the Children of God (Christians) to know how to behave themselves when they will learn the Way of God. They must beat down and cast away their very Thoughts; and desire nothing, nor

have the least Will to learn any Thing, unless they find themselves to be in true Resignation; so that God's Spirit leadeth, teaches, and guides Man's Spirit, and that the human Will which is attached to itself, be wholly broken off from its own Lust, and resigned to God.

The poem highlights a spiritual practice of complete surrender and humility in the pursuit of divine guidance.



### Inspired by the idea of spiritual surrender and divine guidance: (poem)

*In the quiet of the soul's deep night, where thoughts are stilled and hearts take flight, a path unseen, yet brightly lit, by the Spirit's gentle, guiding light.*

*Cast aside your willful pride, let the ego's whispers fade and hide. For in the surrender of the mind, the true way of God you'll find.*

*No desires to cloud the way, no need for words, no need to say. In the silence, pure and clear, God's own voice you'll truly hear.*

*Break the chains of earthly lust, in divine guidance place your trust. Let the Spirit lead your heart, In every step, a sacred art.*

*For in the humble, open heart, where self has learned to take no part, God's own Spirit flows and grows, A river of grace that ever flows.*

***There is an eternal Contrariety between Darkness and Light; neither of them comprehends the other, and neither of them is the other; and yet there is only one Essence, Being, or Substance, wherein they both subsist. But there is a Difference in the Quality and Will; yet the Essence or Substance is not divided, but a principle makes the***

*Division. So that the one is a nothing in the other, and yet it is there, but not manifest in the Property of that Thing wherein it is.*

## **Self-Desire of the earthly Life (poem)**

*In the dance of dusk and dawn they meet, A whispered clash of shadows and the fleet. Where light's embrace and darkness' shroud, Form the essence, unseen but proud.*

*They dwell in unity yet stand apart, one essence beating in each heart. Qualities of will, they diverge and sway, A silent chorus in the break of day.*

*Darkness, the keeper of secrets deep, in light's pure glow finds its retreat. Yet in the same boundless core, they stay, a paradox in night and day.*

*The principle that draws the line, Defines the border, a subtle sign. In one, the other hides its face, an unmanifested silent grace.*

*But neither win, nor yield, In the cosmos' open fields. For darkness and light, in harmony strive, the essence of being, they keep alive.*

Therefore, all Speculation and Inquiry about God's Will is a vain Thing, unless the Mind be converted. For when the Mind stand captivated in the Self-Desire of the earthly Life, it cannot comprehend what the Will of God is; it run on but in Self, from one Way into another, and yet find no Rest; for Self-Desire evermore bringeth Disquiet. But when it sinks itself wholly into the Mercy of God, desiring to die from itself, and to have God's Will for a Guide to the Understanding, so that it acknowledge and esteem itself as nothing, and will nothing but what God will, then shall it both know and do the Will of God. And if the Desire of Anger in the earthly Flesh should go along or join with the Devil's Imagination, and assault the Will of the Soul, yet the resigned Desire cry to God and saith, Abba, loving Father, deliver me from Evil. And then, though the earthly



Will should grow too strong in the Wrath of God by the Infection of the Devil, the Desire of Anger would work but in or upon itself. According to what St. Paul saith, Now, if I sin, I do it not, but Sin that dwelleth in my Flesh: Also, Now I serve the Law of God in my Mind, but in my Flesh the Law of Sin. Paul meant not that the Will of the Mind or Soul should consent to the Will of the Flesh; but Sin is so strong in the Flesh, viz. the awakened Anger of God in Self, that oftentimes the Mind is brought into Lust, as it were by Force, through the evil Incitements of the wicked, or else by beholding worldly Pomp and Glory; so that it absolutely bear down the resigned Will, and rule by Force.

The passage you've shared reflects deep religious and philosophical thoughts on understanding and following the will of God. Here's a breakdown:

1. **Human Self-Desire and Understanding God's Will:** The author argues that trying to understand God's will is futile if one's mind is trapped in worldly desires. This self-centered focus leads to unrest and confusion.
2. **Complete Submission to God:** True understanding and doing God's will happen when an individual wholly submits to God's mercy, letting go of self-desire and aligning with God's will.
3. **Struggle with Earthly Desires:** Even when one desires to follow God, earthly temptations and desires (often spurred by the devil) can attack the soul's will. In these moments, one should call out to God for help.
4. **St. Paul's Struggle:** Referencing St. Paul, the author highlights the ongoing struggle between the spiritual mind's will (which seeks to follow God) and the flesh's sinful desires.

## Entrapped in worldly desire

*In quiet whispers, God's will does dwell, A light amidst the shadows where we fell. From earthly desires, our hearts must part, to find the divine path, deep in the heart.*

*The mind entrapped in worldly desire, cannot grasp the celestial fire. But in surrender, with soul laid bare, God's will reveals, in mercy's care.*

*Temptations rise, the devil's snare, Pulling souls into despair. Yet in the storm, a prayer sincere, "Abba, Father, keep me near."*

*St. Paul's struggle, a tale of old, In flesh and spirit, a battle bold. Though sin may dwell within the flesh, The soul seeks God, in hope afresh.*

*In every heart, this war does rage, Worldly temptations, a constant cage. But through surrender, we find the key, In God's own will, our souls set free.*

Then the subtle Devil insinuate himself into the Creature, and sifts the Centre of Nature, and brings evil or false Desires into it, so that a Man becomes as it were drunken in Self, and still persuades himself that he is driven by God, by which Means the good Beginning, wherein the divine Light shone in Nature, comes to be spoiled, and so the Light of God depart from him. Yet the outward Light of the outward Nature remain shining in the creature; for its own self throw itself thereinto and suppose that it is still the first Light of God; but it is not so. And into this Self-Exaltation in the Light of its outward Reason, the Devil throw himself again, (though in the first Light, which was Divine, he had been forced to depart) now returning with the seven-fold Desire, of which Christ Spake, saying, When the unclean Spirit depart out of a Man, he wander through dry Places seeking Rest, and find none; and then he takes to himself seven Spirits worse than himself, and return to his first House; and finding it swept and

garnished, he dwells therein, and so it is worse with that Man than it was before.

The poem explores the idea of spiritual deception and the persistence of evil influences. Here's a detailed explanation:

**1. The Subtle Devil's Influence:**

- The poem begins with the devil insinuating himself into a person's nature, bringing forth false or evil desires. This corrupts the individual's initial state of purity and divine connection, leading them to believe they are still guided by God, even though they are misled by their own self-centered desires.

**2. Corruption of Divine Light:**

- The "good Beginning" where divine light once shone is spoiled by these false desires, resulting in the departure of God's light from the individual. This represents the loss of spiritual purity due to succumbing to temptations and false beliefs.

**3. Outward Light vs. Divine Light:**

- Although the divine light has departed, the outward light of natural reason remains. This outward light gives the illusion of still possessing divine guidance, but it is merely the individual's own reasoning, not true spiritual enlightenment.

**4. Self-Exaltation and Deception:**

- In their self-exaltation and reliance on their own reason, the person becomes vulnerable to the devil's influence again. The devil returns with even stronger desires, as illustrated by the reference to

Christ's teaching about the unclean spirit bringing back seven worse spirits.

#### 5. **Worsened Spiritual State:**

- The person's spiritual state becomes worse than before because they now have an even stronger false sense of righteousness while being more deeply misled. The "swept and garnished" house represents a person who appears clean and orderly but is inwardly filled with greater evil due to self-deception.

In summary, the passage warns about the dangers of spiritual complacency and self-reliance. It emphasizes that true divine guidance requires humility and constant vigilance against the devil's deceptions. The struggle between genuine spiritual light and the misleading outward light of human reason is a central theme, illustrating the ongoing battle for spiritual integrity.

### spiritual vigilance & struggle between divine light & worldly desire: (Poem)

*In the shadows of the soul's deep night, where darkness  
mingles with fleeting light, A whispering serpent coils around,  
seeking to pull the spirit down.*

*The light once pure, now fades and dims, as self-deceit and  
pride begins. In outward brilliance, reason shines, yet falsehood  
lingers in its lines.*

*Beware the devil's subtle art, his false desires that snare the  
heart. for in the guise of righteous flame, he sows the seeds of  
sin and shame.*

*Cast off the veil of self-deceit, and at God's feet, lay your  
defeat. In humble silence, seek His grace, to guide you through  
this worldly maze.*

*For true light dwells in hearts resigned, to God's own will, not in the mind. and in the mercy of His care, find strength to rise from dark despair.*

---

**This poem delves into the inner spiritual struggle between light and darkness, truth and deception. Here's a breakdown:**

*In the shadows of the soul's deep night, where darkness mingles with fleeting light, A whispering serpent coils around, seeking to pull the spirit down.*

- **This imagery sets the stage for the poem, highlighting the inner conflict within the soul. The “whispering serpent” symbolizes temptation and evil, trying to bring the soul into darkness.**

*The light once pure, now fades and dims, as self-deceit and pride begins. In outward brilliance, reason shines, yet falsehood lingers in its lines.*

- **This section describes how the purity of the soul's light is tainted by self-deception and pride. Despite appearing reasonable and brilliant, underlying falsehoods and deceit remain.**

*Beware the devil's subtle art, his false desires that snare the heart. for in the guise of righteous flame, he sows the seeds of sin and shame.*

- **The devil's temptations are cunning, appearing as righteous desires but leading to sin and shame. The heart must remain vigilant against these deceptive snares.**

*Cast off the veil of self-deceit, and at God's feet, lay your defeat. In humble silence, seek His grace, to guide you through this worldly maze.*

- **To overcome this struggle, one must remove self-deception and humbly surrender to God. Seeking**

God's grace provides guidance through life's challenges and temptations.

*For true light dwells in hearts resigned, to God's own will, not in the mind. and in the mercy of His care, find strength to rise from dark despair.*

- True divine light is found in hearts that fully surrender to God's will, rather than relying solely on the mind. God's mercy provides the strength to overcome despair and rise above inner darkness.

Overall, the poem emphasizes the importance of humility, vigilance, and seeking God's grace to navigate the spiritual battle between light and darkness, truth and deceit.





***God is  
stronger  
than your  
struggle!***

