The Holy Sonnets unDonne

Mark Young

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Introduction

I did Donne in High School. Redone at University. Thought after that that I’d be done with Donne. But no. Discovered that Donne is one of those precursor poets who, like W. C. Williams & Yeats & Apollinaire, I keep coming back to. *The Holy Sonnets unDonne* is a belated homage, a small sequence that uses the poems by Donne as a starting point to track how things change across four centuries yet still remain as metaphysical as ever.

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Thou hast made me, and shall thy work decay?

Mildly dyslexic &
made from neoprene,
she was a lawyer
who courted infamy
by using saturation
advertising to accuse a
certain mining magnate
of causing the plane
crash that killed three
members of Lynyrd
Skynyrd. It was raining.
She wasn’t wearing
her seat belt. Sweet
Home Alabama indeed.
As due by many titles I resign

Chinese hackers were reportedly behind the counterfeit weather forecast. It came as a two-pack, in the same way that bad hygiene makes you look like a slob. This trope could also apply to animals. Police seized the vegetable stall & any resident reluctant to allow someone to drill a hole in their slab. Funds for the TV commercial came from federal sources.
He asks: *Why is milk white?*  
*To mirror the Brazilian culture now that they don’t have band practice like they used to,* she replies. Imagine vibrations on a string of fixed length—$L$ is the string length, & $n$ is an integer. The motion of objects is governed by Newton’s laws. *Il est bon de pouvoir s’amuser avec ses amis.* It’s a common trope on the troubles of building your own logic controls.
Oh my black soul! now art thou summoned

Everyone should get their act together, create a list of large numbers & a broad agenda for social change. The process can be streamlined, made less error prone by squeezing the lever with the left hand & relying on physical principles & simple physics. Her basement was one of a range of venues currently set up for human clinical trials. Her countenance exhibited great distress.
I am a little world made cunningly

We have ambushed the mainstream & are now showing the extent of dissimilarity between any item being considered & those already selected. It’s a dictionary of atmosphere & ambience, this maximum marginal relevance, recently hauled over the coals by the Vatican for trying to help homebuyers circumvent its tough new lending criteria. It is also offering small bench-top composting bins for sale.
This place is a rip off, a real live example of campaign momentum in action. A year ago it might have been a ukelele, encouraging women to talk to their doctors about the ineffectiveness of retention programs or maybe something about Jamiroquai. Now the promise has no value, imagined or otherwise. The candidate bundled up, the gift stopped giving.
At the round earth’s imagined corners, blow

She went to Helsinki, a concert of her music, took a walk from Market Square to Café Ursula by the sea. Scientists have identified a neural circuit that connects motor planning to movement. Move left, move right. The sea water spurts like a geyser & saltwater sprays the area. It may be advisable to pack extra insulin.
If faithful souls be alike glorified

Pretty blonde teenagers will sometimes make sandals from cut-up truck tires using a jig saw with a metal-cutting blade, Shoe Goo, & a dozen or so clamps. The Olmecs, caught up in global issues, sought out poisonous plants. They were also great traders. Spengler said of them: We are witnessing the last season—winter time—of the Faustian Civilization. You may also use the Bill Me option & pay just $17.00.
If poisonous minerals, and if that tree

The nation’s refineries close down & the mining boom ends. The village dogs have been penned up. Poor diet & animals with mineral deficiencies are bringing the Western world to its knees. Many extraordinary offerings have been made that hope to eliminate chance but chance rises up anyway. A young man sits flanked by a pair of Kalashnikovs, grinning. She tried to surf a train.
Death be not proud, though some have called thee

I am having Skype lessons once a week & can be contagious for up to two weeks afterwards. Inanimate objects will often show symptoms when they’re in a syntactic category at their own expense. The girl that is teaching me infinite patience might be Swedish but doesn’t have time to utter any extraneous words. Instead she dances in a language I can understand. Some doctrines are voiced in poetry.
She told them they were no longer slaves, renowned throughout the world for their succulent flavor. The setting was originally a run-down hotel that used the British convention for floor numbering. Where this might cause misreading, add an apostrophe & s or italicize the numerals. I want to get my tragus pierced, & add a small dream catcher in the Native American Style.
Why are we by all creatures waited on?

A phallus-like shape designed especially for stimulating the G-spot reduces stress on the motor, creating what you desire, the finding & discovery of the lost gnostic gospels. She’s wearing a big black backpack. Her reckless desire for experimentation overrides any hint of common sense—she doesn’t care if the public realizes the correlation between drilling for oil in America’s premier wildlife sanctuary & computer security.
What if this present were the world’s last night?

Korolev scored 9.85s on the floor & pommel horse exercises. The dragon’s burnt tooth is also known as a cross-functional liaison. Pick the color of the leather, the color of the beads—each color represents a distinct area of functional expertise—& they’ll put it together by hand. Integrate the work of other people. Avoid paraphrasing the text. Up to 5% of the female population has alterations in thyroid function. Informal language is denigrated. The prices were in Singaporean dollars.
Batter my heart, three-person’d God...

We were preparing to leave the restaurant, already familiar with those revelatory findings that directly impact on the concept of how the movements of the round heaven would be hindered by a square Earth. “Manifesting” is such a buzzword these days, used interchangeably with “magic” to produce a result so ardently desired. But magic is ashes, potsherds, & bricks, three things the earth does not corrode, even after high rotational torque & modern waste separation technology.
Wilt thou love God, as he thee? Then digest

I have downloaded InstaGlam for Instagram & enjoy it on my iPhone. I’m constantly strapped into the seatbelt of my car so am always careful to have a weapon available to each hand, knowing how awkward it is to get to a pocket-carried gun. I prepare so I don’t have to go hungry if my usual stores run out of food, but if by chance I do I live above the Trader Joe’s on 14th Street NW. Food miles are a good measure of how far food has traveled.
Father, part of his double interest

One end of the continuum is an uncaptioned & unnumbered image of a short, attractive, self-assured young woman who later served as the first Prime Minister of Australia. The other, a cumulative picture of anxiety hysterias & neuroses which rusts when exposed to air. We were younger than we thought. Time dilates. You are watching someone who is accelerating. Whale-watching could be accelerating the extinction of whales. Their songs can be heard over great distances.
Since she whom I loved hath paid her last debt

The low status of gentrification has a solid existential base. Productivity may have surged but sweetheart deals are brutalizing the public. If we skip the example of Frozen, the most striking illustration of severe economic inequality is how little political scientists have done.
Show me, dear Christ, Thy spouse so bright and clear

A house is floating down the river. They were swept apart. She was lost. Swimming in a river in a dream means either ending up in a dismal slot at some seedy Soho club or working for the public service. Leave any preconceptions at the door or doom each other by holding onto them. Yelp is a fun & easy way to talk about what’s great & not so great in Des Moines. Because I’m Japanese, I never had that kind of conversation near me. I can clearly see a difference in my skin.
Oh, to vex me, contraries meet in one

Greece is in a straightjacket. An error occurred: unable to execute Javascript. I love cookbooks from around the world. The Adobe Flash plugin is needed to view this content. Nothing is served by being silent. The cinetrix insists I share this with codland. Inverting the process is like learning a vocabulary. Our editors are very busy working on the process. Using solid fuels like wood, charcoal, & dung made Scandinavian cooking the most fashionable in the world. Their guiding principle can be summed up in four words: cooking dinner shouldn’t kill.
Mark Young

Mark Young is the editor of *Otoliths*, lives in a small town in North Queensland in Australia, & has been publishing poetry for more than fifty-five years. He is the author of over thirty books, primarily text poetry but also including speculative fiction, vispo, & art history. His work has been widely anthologized, & his essays & poetry translated into a number of languages. His most recent books are *Bandicoot habitat* & *lithic typology*, both from gradient books of Finland. An e-book, *For the Witches of Romania*, is due out from Beard of Bees.