

Sonnet 3: The souerayne beauty

Friday, January 25, 1594

Conversion of S. Paul

Epistle: Act 9.1-32

Gospel: Mat 19.27-30

Morning Prayer: Psa 119.33-72; Wis 5; Act 22.1-22

Evening Prayer: Psa 119.73-104; Wis 6; Act 26

Epistle: Acts 9.1-32

C H A P. I X.

ANd Saul yet breathing out threatnings & slaughter against
the disciples of the Lord, went vnto the hie Priest,
2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the Synagogues, that
if he founde any that were of that way (ether men or women) he
might bring them bounde vnto Ierusalem.
3 Now as he iourneyed, it came to passe that as he was come nere
to Damascus, suddenly there shined rounde about him a light from
heauen.
4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, Saul,
Saul, why persecutest thou me?
5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Iesus
whome thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kicke against prickes.
6 He *then* bothe trembling and astonied, said, Lord, what wilt
thou that I do? And the Lord said vnto him, Arise, and go into the
citie, and it shalbe told thee what thou shalt do.
7 The men also which iorneyed with him, stode amased, hearing
his voyce, but seing no man.
8 And Saul arose from the grounde, and opened his eyes, *but*
sawe no man. Then led they him by the hand, and broght him into
Damascus,

9 Where he was thre dayes without sight, and nether ate nor dranke.

10 And there was a certeine disciple at Damascus named Ananias, & to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Beholde, I am *here*, Lord.

11 Then the Lord said vnto him, Arise, and go into the strete which is called Straight, and seke in the house of Iudas after one called Saul of Tarsus: for beholde, he prayeth.

12 (And he sawe in a vision a man named Ananias coming in to him, & putting his hands on him, that he might receiue his sight.)

13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I haue heard by many of this man, how muche euil he hathe done to thy saintes at Ierusalem.

14 Moreouer here he hathe authoritie of the hie Priests, to binde all that call on thy Name.

15 Then the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel vnto me, to beare my Name before the Gentiles, & Kings, and the children of Israel.

16 For I wil shewe him, how many things he must suffre for my Names sake.

17 Then Ananias went his way, and entred into that house, and put his hands on him, and said, Brother Saul, the Lord hathe sent me (*euen* Iesus that appeared vnto thee in the way as thou camest) that thou mightest receiue thy sight, and be filled with the holie Gost.

18 And immediatly there fel from his eyes as *it had bene* scales, & suddenly he receiued sight, and arose, and was baptized,

19 And receiued meat, & was strengthened. So was Saul certeine dayes with the disciples which were at Damascus.

20 And straight way he preached Christ in the Synagogues, that he was that Sonne of God,

21 So that all that heard him were amased, and said, Is not this he, that destroyed them which called on this Name in Ierusalem, & came hither for that intent, that he shulde bring them bounde vnto the hie Priests?

22 But Saul encreased the more in strength, and confounded the Iewes which dwelt at Damascus, confirming, that this was the Christ.

23 And after that many dayes were fulfilled, the Iewes took counsel together, to kill him,

24 But their laying await was knowen of Saul: now they watched the gates day and night, that they might kill him.

25 Then the disciples toke him by night, and put him through the wall, and let him downe in a basket.

26 And when Saul was come to Ierusalem, he assaied to ioyne him self with the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and beleued not that he was a disciple.

27 But Barnabas toke him, and broght him to the Apostles, and declared to them, how he had sene the Lord in the way, & that he had spoken vnto him, & how he had spoken boldely at Damascus in the Name of Iesus.

28 And he was conuersant with them at Ierusalem,

29 And spake boldely in the Name of the Lord Iesus, & spake and disputed with the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

30 But when the brethren knewe it, they brought him to Cesarea, & sent him forth to Tarsus.

31 Then had the Churches rest through all Iudea, and Galile, and Samaria, and were edified, & walked in the feare of the Lord, and were multiplied by the comfort of the holie Gost.

32 And it came to passe, as Peter walked through out all *quarters*, he came also to the saintes which dwelt at Lydda.

Gospel: Matthew 19.27-30

27 ¶ Then answered Peter, & said to him, Beholde, we haue forsaken all, & followed thee; what shal we haue?

28 And Iesus said vnto them, Verely I say to you, that when the Sonne of man shall sit in the throne of his maiestie, ye which followed me in the regeneracion, shal sit also vpon twelue thrones, and iudge the twelue tribes of Israel.

29 And whosoever shal forsake houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my Names sake, he shal receiue an hundreth folde more, & shal inherit euerlasting life.

30 But manie that are first, shalbe last, and the last *shalbe* first.

Morning Prayer: Psalm 119.33-72

HE.

33 Teache me, ô Lord, the waie of thy statutes, and I wil kepe it vnto the end.

34 Giue me vnderstanding, and I wil kepe thy Law: yea, I wil kepe it with *my* whole heart.

35 Direct me in the path of thy commandements: for therein is my delite.

36 Incline mine heart vnto thy testimonies, and not to couetousnes.

37 Turn awaie mine eyes from regarding vanitie, & quicken me in thy waie.

38 Stablish thy promes to thy seruant, because he feareth thee.

39 Take awaie my rebuke that I feare: for thy iudgements *are* good.

40 Behold, I desire thy commandements: quicken me in thy righteousnes,

VAU.

- 41 And let thy louing kindnes come vnto me, ô Lord, & thy saluacion according to thy promes.
- 42 So shal I make answer vnto my blasphemers: for I trust in thy worde.
- 43 And take not the worde of trueth vtterly out of my mouth: for I wait for thy iudgements.
- 44 So shal I alwaie kepe thy Lawe for euer and euer.
- 45 And I wil walke at libertie: for I seke thy precepts.
- 46 I wil speake also of thy testimonies before Kings, and wil not be ashamed.
- 47 And my delite shalbe in thy commandements, which I haue loued.
- 48 Mine hands also wil I lift vp vnto thy commandements, which I haue loued, and I wil meditate in thy statutes.

ZAIN.

- 49 Remembre the promes *made* to thy seruant, wherein thou hast caused me to trust.
- 50 It is my comfort in my trouble: for thy promes hathe quickened me.
- 51 The proude haue had me excedingly in derision: yet haue I not declined from thy Law.
- 52 I remembred thy iudgements of olde, ô Lord, and haue bene comforted.
- 53 Feare is come vpon me for the wicked, that forsake thy Law.
- 54 Thy statutes haue bene my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.
- 55 I haue remembred thy Name, ô Lord, in the night, and haue kept thy Law.
- 56 This I had because I kept thy precepts.

CHETH.

57 O Lord, *that art* my porcion, I haue determined to kepe thy wordes.

58 I made my supplication in thy presence with *my* whole heart: be merciful vnto me according to thy promes.

59 I have considered my waies, & turned my fete into thy testimonies.

60 I made haste and delayed not to kepe thy commandements.

61 The bands of the wicked haue robbed me: *but* I haue not forgotten thy Law.

62 At midnight wil I rise to giue thankes vnto thee, because of thy righteous iudgements.

63 I am companion of all them that feare thee, and kepe thy precepts.

64 The earth, ô Lord, is ful of thy mercie: teache me thy statutes.

TETH.

65 O Lord, thou hast delt graciously with thy seruant according vnto thy worde.

66 Teache me good iudgement and knowledge: for I haue beleved thy commandements.

67 Before I was afflicted, I went astraie: but now I kepe thy worde.

68 Thou art good and gracious: teache me thy statutes.

69 The proude have imagined a lie against me: *but* I wil kepe thy precepts with *my* whole heart.

70 Their heart is fat as grease: *but* my delite is in thy Law.

71 It is good for me that I haue been afflicted, that I maie learne thy statutes.

72 The Law of thy mouth is better vnto me, then thousands of golde and siluer.

Morning Prayer - 1st Lesson: Wisdom 5

C H A P. V.

Then shall the righteous stand in great boldenes before the face of suche as haue tormented him, and taken away his labours.

2 When thei se him, thei shalbe vexed with horrible fear, and shalbe amased for his wonderful deliuerance.

3 And shal change their mindes, and sigh for grief of minde, and say within them selues, This is he, whome we sometime had in derision, and in a parable of reproche.

4 We fooles thoght his life madnes, and his end without honour.

5 How is he counted among the children of God, and his porcion is among the Saintes!

6 Therefore we haue erred from the waye of trueth, and the light of righteousnes hath not shined vnto vs, and the sunne of vnderstanding rose not vpon vs.

7 We haue wearied our selues in the waye of wickednes and destruction, and we haue gone through dangerous waies: but we haue not knowen the way of the Lord.

8 What hath pride profited vs or what profite hath the pompe of riches broght vs?

9 All those things are passed away like a shadow, and as a poste that passeth by;

10 As a shippe that passeth ouer the waues of the water, which when it is gone by, the trace thereof can not be founde, nether the path of it in the floods:

11 Or as a birde that fleeth thorowe in the aire, and no man can see anie token of her passage, but onely heare the noise of her wings, beating the light winde, parting the aire thorow the vehemencie of her going, & fleeth on shaking her wings, where as afterwarde no token of her way can be found:

12 Or as when an arrowe is shot at a marke, it parteth the aire, which immediately cometh together againe, so that a man can not knowe where it went thorowe.

13 Euen so we, assone as we were borne, we beganne to drawe to our end, and haue shewed no token of verue, but are consumed in our owne wickednes.

14 For the hope of the vngodlie is like the dust that is blowne away with the wind, and like a thinne fome that is scatterered abroad with the storme, and as the smoke, which is dispersed with the winde, and as the remembrance of him passeth, that tarieth but for a day.

15 But the righteous shal liue for euer: their rewarde also is with the Lord, & the most High hathe care of them.

16 Therefore shal they receiue a glorious kingdome, and a beautiful crowne of the Lords hand: for with his right hand shal he couer them, and with his arme shal he defende them.

17 He shal take his iealousie for armour, & shal arme the creatures to be reuenged of the enemies.

18 He shal put on righteousnes for a brestplate, and take true iudgement in stead of an helmet.

19 He wil take holines for an inuincible shield.

20 He wil sharpen his fierce wrath for a sworde, and the worlde shal fight with him against the vnwise.

21 Then shal the thunder boltes go streight out of the lightnings and shal flee to the marke as out of the bent bowe of the clouds, and out of his angre that throweth stones, shal thicke haile be cast, and the water of the sea shalbe wrothe against them, & the floods shal mightely ouerflowe.

22 And a mightie winde shal stand vp against them, and like a storme shall scatter them abroad. Thus iniquitie shal bring all the

earth to a wildernes, and wickednes shal ouerthrowe the thrones of the mightie.

Morning Prayer - 2nd Lesson: Acts 22.1-22

C H A P. X X I I.

YE men, brethren & fathers, heare my defence now towards you.

2 (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrue tongue to them, they kept the more silence, and he said)

3 I am verely a man, *which am* a Iewe, borne in Tarsus in Cilicia, but broght vp in this citie at the feet of Gamaliel, and instructed according to the perfect maner of the Law of the Fathers, and was zealous towarde God, as ye all are this day.

4 And I persecuted this way vnto the death, binding and deliuering into prison bothe men and women,

5 As also the chief Priest doeth beare me witnes, & all the state of the Elders: of whom also I receiued letters vnto the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring them which were there, bounde vnto Ierusalem, that they might be punished.

6 ¶ And so it was, as I iourneid, and was come nere vnto Damascus about noone, that suddenly there shone from heauen a great light rounde about me.

7 So I fel vnto the earth, and heard a voyce, saying vnto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

8 Then I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said to me, I am Iesus of Nazaret, whom thou persecutest.

9 Moreover they that were with me, sawe in dede a light and were afraid: but they heard not the voyce of him that spake vnto me.

10 Then I said, What shal I do, Lord? And the Lord said vnto me, Arise, and go into Damascus: and there it shalbe tolde thee of all things, which are appointed for thee to do.

11 So when I colde not se for the glorie of that light, I was led by the hand of them that were with me, and came into Damascus.

12 And one Ananias a godlie man, as pertainig to the Law, hauing good reporte of all the Iewes which dwelt there,

13 Came vnto me, and stode, and said vnto me, Brother Saul, receiue thy sight: & that same houre I loked vpon him.

14 And he said, The God of our fathers hathe appointed thee, that thou shuldest know his wil, and shuldest se that Iust one, and shuldest heare the voyce of his mouth.

15 For thou shalt be his witnes vnto all men, of the things which thou hast sene and heard.

16 Now therefore why tariest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and washe away thy sinnes, in calling on the Name of the Lord.

17 ¶ And it came to passe, that when I was come againe to Ierusalem, and prayed in the Temple, I was in a traunce,

18 And sawe him saying vnto me, Make haste, & get thee quickly out of Ierusalem: for they wil not receiue thy witnes concerning me.

19 Then I said, Lord, they know that I prisoned, and bet in euerie Synagogue them that beleued in thee.

20 And when the blood of thy martyr Steuen was shed, I also stode by, and consented vnto his death, and kept the clothes of them that slewe him.

21 Then he said vnto me, Depart: for I wil send thee farre hence vnto the Gentiles.

22 ¶ And they heard him vnto this word, *but* then they lift vp their voyces, and said, Away with suche a felowe from the earth: for it is not mete that he shulde liue.

Evening Prayer: Psalm 119.73-104

JOD.

73 Thine hands haue made me and facioned me: giue me vnderstanding *therefore*, that I maie learne thy commandements.

74 So thei that feare thee, seing me shal reioyce, because I haue trusted in thy worde.

75 I knowe, ô Lord, that thy iudgements *are* right, and that thou hast afflicted me iustly.

76 I praie thee that thy mercie maie comfort me according to thy promes vnto thy seruant.

77 Let thy tender mercies come vnto me, that I maie liue: for thy Law is my delite.

78 Let the proude be ashamed: for thei haue dealt wickedly *and* falsely with me: *but* I meditate in thy precepts.

79 Let suche as fear thee turne vnto me, and thei that knowe thy testimonies.

80 Let mine heart be vpright in thy statutes, that I be not ashamed.

CAPH.

81 My soule fainteth for thy saluacion: *yet* I waite for thy worde.

82 Mine eyes faile for thy promes, saying, When wilt thou comfort me?

83 For I am like a bottel in the smoke: *yet* do I not forget thy statutes.

84 How manie are the daies of thy seruant? when wilt thou execute judgement on them that persecute me?

85 The proude haue digged pittes for me, which is not after thy Law.

86 All thy commandements *are* true: they persecute me falsely:
helpe me.

87 They had almost consumed me vpon the earth: but I forsoke
not thy precepts.

88 Quicken me according to thy louing kindnes. so shal I kepe the
testimonie of thy mouth.

LAMED.

89 O Lord, thy word endureth for euer in heauen.

90 Thy trueth *is* from generacion to generacion: thou hast laied
the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.

91 Thei continue *euen* to this daie by thine ordinances: for all *are*
thy seruants.

92 Except thy Law had bene my delite, I shulde now haue
perished in mine affliction.

93 I wil neuer forget thy precepts: for by them thou hast
quickened me.

94 I am thine, saue me: for I haue soght thy precepts.

95 The wicked haue waited for me to destroye me: *but* I wil
consider thy testimonies.

96 I haue sene an end of all perfection: *but* thy commandement is
exceding large.

MEM.

97 Oh how loue I thy Law! it is my meditacion continually.

98 By thy commandements thou hast made me wiser then mine
enemies: for they are euer with me.

99 I haue had more vnderstanding then all my teachers: for thy
testimonies *are* my meditacion.

100 I vnderstode more then the ancient, because I kept thy
precepts.

101 I haue refrained my fete from euerie euil way, that I might
kepe thy worde.

102 I haue not declined from thy iudgments: for thou didest teache me.

103 How swete are thy promises vnto my mouth! *yea*, more then honie vnto my mouth.

104 By thy precepts I haue gotten vnderstanding: therefore I hate all the wayes of falsehode.

Evening Prayer - 1st Lesson: Wisdom 6

C H A P. V I.

HEare therefore, ô ye Kings, and vnderstand: learne, ye that be iudges of the ends of the earth.

2 Giue eare, ye that rule the multitudes & glorie in the multitude of people.

3 For the rule is giuen you of the Lord, and power by the moste High, who wil trye your workes, and searche out your imaginacions.

4 Because that ye being officers of his kingdome haue not iudged aright, nor kept the Law, nor walked after the wil of God,

5 Horribly and sodenly wil he appeare vnto you: for an hard iudgement shal they haue that beare rule.

6 For he that is moste lowe, is worthie mercie, but the mightie shalbe mightely tormented.

7 For he that is Lord ouer all, wil spare no persone, nether shal he feare anie greatnes: for he hathe made the small and great, and careth for all a like.

8 But for the mightie abideth the sorer tryal.

9 Vnto you therefore, ô tyrants, do I speake, that ye may learne wisdom, and not go amisse.

10 For they that kepe holines holily, shalbe holie, and they that are learned there, shal finde a defence.

- 11 Wherefore set your delite vpon my wordes & desire them, & ye shalbe instructed.
- 12 Wisedome shineth & neuer fadeth away, and is easely sene of them that loue her, & founde of such as seke her,
- 13 She preuenteth them that desire her, that she may first shewe her selfe vnto them.
- 14 Whoso awaketh vnto her betimes, shal haue no great trauail: for he shal finde her sitting at his dores.
- 15 To thinke vpon her then is perfite vnderstading: and who so watcheth for her, shalbe sone without care.
- 16 For she goeth about, seking suche as are mete for her, and sheweth her self cherefully vnto them in the wayes, and meteth them in euerie thought.
- 17 For the moste true desire of discipline is her beginning: and the care of discipline is loue:
- 18 And loue is the keping of her lawes: and the keping of the lawes is the assurance of immortalitie:
- 19 And immortalitie maketh vs nere vnto God.
- 20 Therefore the desire of wisdom leadeth to the kingdome.
- 21 If your delite be then in thrones, & scepters, ô Kings of the people, honour wisdom, that ye may reigne for euer.
- 22 Now I wil tell you what wisdom is, & whence it cometh, & wil not hide the mysteries from you, but wil seke her out from the beginning of her natiuitie, and bring the knowledge of her into light, and will not kepe backe the trueth.
- 23 Nether wil I haue to do with consuming enuie: for suche a man shal not be partaker of wisdom.
- 24 But the multitude of the wise is the preseruacion of the worlde, and a wise King is the staye of the people.
- 25 Be therefore instructed by my wordes, & ye shal haue profite.

Evening Prayer - 2nd Lesson: Acts 26

C H A P. X X V I.

Then Agrippa said vnto Paul, Thou art permitted to speake for thy self. So Paul stretched forthe the hand, and answered for him self.

2 I thinke my self happie, King Agrippa, because I shal answer this daye before thee of all the things whereof I am accused of the Iewes.

3 Chiefly, because thou hast knowledge of all customes, and questions which are among the Iewes: wherefore, I beseche thee, to heare me paciently.

4 As touching my life from my childehode and what it was from the beginning among mine owne nation at Ierusalem, knowe all the Iewes,

5 Which knewe me heretofore (if they wolde testifie) that after the moste straite sect of our religion I liued a Pharise.

6 And now I stand and am accused for the hope of the promes made of God vnto our fathers.

7 Whereunto our twelue tribes instantly seruing *God* day and night, hope to come: for the which hopes sake, ô King Agrippa, I am accused of the Iewes.

8 Why shulde it be thoght a thing incredible vnto you, that God shulde raise againe the dead?

9 I also verely thoght in my self, that I oght to doe manie contrarie things against the Name of Iesus of Nazaret.

10 Which thing I also did in Ierusalem: for manie of the Sainctes I shut vp in prison, hauing receiued autoritie of the high Priests, and when they were put to death, I gaue *my* sentence.

11 And I punished them throughout all the Synagogues, and compelled them to blaspheme, and being more mad against them, I persecuted them, euen vnto strange cities.

12 At which time, euen as I went to Damascus with autoritie, & commission from the high Priests,

13 At midday, ô King, I sawe in the way a light from heauen, passing the brightnes of the sunne, shine rounde about me, and them which went with me.

14 So when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking vnto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kicke against prickes.

15 Then I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Iesus whome thou persecutest.

16 But rise and stand vp on thy fete: for I haue appeared vnto thee for this purpose, to appoint thee a minister and a witnes, bothe of the things which thou hast sene, & of the things in the which I wil appeare vnto thee,

17 Deliuering thee from this people, & from the Gentiles, vnto whome now I send thee,

18 To open their eyes, that they may turne from darknes to light, and from the power of Satan vnto God, that they may receiue forgiuenes of sinnes, and inheritance among them, which are sanctified by fayth in me.

19 Wherefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient vnto the heauenly vision,

20 But shewed first vnto them of Damascus, and at Ierusalem, and throughout all the coastes of Iudea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they shulde repent and turne to God, and do workes worthie amendement of life.

21 For this cause the Iewes caught me in the Temple, and went about to kil me.

- 22 Neuertheles, I obtained helpe of God, and continue vnto this day, witnessing bothe to smal & to great, saying none other things, then those which the Prophetes & Moses did say shulde come,
- 23 *To wit*, that Christ shulde suffer, and that he shulde be the first that shulde rise from the dead, and shulde shewe light vnto the people, and to the Gentiles.
- 24 And as he thus answered for him self, Festus said with a loude voyce, Paul, thou art besides thy self: mucche learning doeth make thee mad.
- 25 But he said, I am not mad, ô noble Festus, but I speake the wordes of trueth and sobernes.
- 26 For the King knoweth of these things, before whome also I speake boldly: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hid from him: for this thing was not done in a corner.
- 27 O King Agrippa, beleuest thou the Prophetes? I know that thou beleuest.
- 28 Then Agrippa said vnto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to become a Christian.
- 29 Then Paul said, I wolde to God that not onely thou, but also all that heare me to daye, were bothe almost, & altogether suche as I am, except these bondes.
- 30 And when he had thus spoken, the King rose vp, and the gouernour, and Bernice, and they that sate with them.
- 31 And when they were gone aparte, they talked betwene them selues, saying, This man doeth nothing worthie of death, nor of bonds.
- 32 Then said Agrippa vnto Festus, This man might haue bene losed, if he had not appealed vnto Cesar.