

Pied Beauty (G.M. Hopkins)

Explanation - 01

All things counter, original, spare, strange
 Whatever is fickle, flocked (Who knows how?)
 With swift, slow, sweet, sour, adazzle, dim,
 He fathers forth whose beauty is past change,
 Praise him.

The present lines are taken from the poem "Pied Beauty" composed by the Victorian poet G.M. Hopkins. Through these lines the poet pays homage to God for having created dappled things in this world. These things are the evidence of glory of God. The poet sums up the general qualities he admires in such dappled things. He admires the uniqueness and originality, their rarity that makes them precious. He likes the fickleness and flocked appearance. At the same time he asks the metaphysical question: 'Who knows how?' He means to say that nobody can explain the reason why these things are 'flocked'. Some things are swift, other slow, some are sweet, others sour. Some are bright, others lustreless. But nobody knows why such contrast exists.

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