

THE NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF  
**POETRY**

SIXTH EDITION

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Delicate-filmed as new-spun silk, will the neighbours say,  
 "He was a man who used to notice such things"?

5 If it be in the dusk when, like an eyelid's soundless blink,  
 The dewfall-hawk<sup>6</sup> comes crossing the shades to alight  
 Upon the wind-warped upland thorn,<sup>o</sup> a gazer may think, *thorn bush*  
 "To him this must have been a familiar sight."

10 If I pass during some nocturnal blackness, mothy and warm,  
 When the hedgehog travels furtively over the lawn,  
 One may say, "He strove that such innocent creatures should  
 come to no harm,  
 But he could do little for them; and now he is gone."

15 If, when hearing that I have been stilled at last, they stand at  
 the door,  
 Watching the full-starred heavens that winter sees,  
 Will this thought rise on those who will meet my face no more,  
 "He was one who had an eye for such mysteries"?

20 And will any say when my bell of quittance<sup>7</sup> is heard in the gloom,  
 And a crossing breeze cuts a pause in its outrollings,  
 Till they rise again, as they were a new bell's boom,  
 "He hears it not now, but used to notice such things"?

1917

6. I.e., the hawk that flies at dewfall.

7. The church bell that tolls when someone dies.

## GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

1844-1889

## God's Grandeur

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;<sup>1</sup>

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed.<sup>2</sup> Why do men then now not reckon his rod? *heed*

5 Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

1. In a letter of 1883, Hopkins writes: "I mean foil in its sense of leaf or tinsel, and no other word whatever will give the effect I want. Shaken gold foil gives off broad glares like sheet lightning and

also, and this is true of nothing else, owing to its zigzag dints and crossings and network of small many cornered facets, a sort of fork lightning too."  
 2. I.e., as when olives are crushed for their oil.

And for<sup>o</sup> all this, nature is never spent;  
 10 There lives the dearest freshness deep down things; *despite*  
 And though the last lights off the black West went  
 Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—  
 Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
 World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

1877

1895

The Windhover<sup>3</sup>

## To Christ Our Lord

I caught this morning morning's minion,<sup>o</sup> king- *darling, favorite*  
 dom of daylight's dauphin,<sup>4</sup> dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding  
 Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding  
 High there, how he rung upon<sup>5</sup> the rein of a wimpling<sup>o</sup> wing *rippling*  
 5 In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,  
 As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and gliding  
 Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding  
 Stirred for a bird,—the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!  
 Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here  
 10 Buckle!<sup>6</sup> AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion  
 Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!<sup>7</sup>  
 No wonder of it: shéer plóð makes plough down sillion<sup>8</sup>  
 Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,  
 Fall, gall<sup>o</sup> themselves, and gash gold-vermilion. *break the surface of*

1877

1918

Pied<sup>9</sup> Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things—  
 For skies of couple-colour as a brindled<sup>o</sup> cow; *brindled*  
 For rose-moles<sup>o</sup> all in stipple upon trout that swim; *light-red spots*  
 Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls;<sup>1</sup> finches' wings;

3. The kestrel, a small hawk, that hovers with its head to the wind.

4. The eldest son of the king of France was called the *dauphin*; hence the word here means "heir to a splendid, kingly condition."

5. Circled at the end of.

6. "Buckle" brings to a focus the elements of line 9, both in their literal sense, as descriptive of a single, sudden movement of the airborne bird, and in their symbolic sense as descriptive of Christ and with further reference to the poet and the lesson he draws from his observation. It

may be read as either indicative or imperative, and in one or another of its possible meanings: "to fasten," "to join closely," "to equip for battle," "to grapple with, engage," but also "to cause to bend, give way, crumple."

7. Knight, nobleman, champion.

8. Ridge between two furrows of a plowed field.

9. Having two or more colors, in patches or blotches.

1. In his *Journals*, Hopkins writes of "chestnuts as bright as coals or spots of vermilion."