

EPITHALAMION

"SINCE FIRST AT CANA WATER TURNED TO WINE"

For Jonathan and Sohee on their wedding

When Eve and Adam slipped on that banana
And skidded out of heaven into pain
Of which we all complain
Creating death and cold annoying rain
And city buses that don't run on time
And war, and everything that troubled Hanna
And other female names that will not rhyme,
One little thing from Eden did remain
From the antipodes up to Montana
And everywhere where bells are known to chime
And that is marriage –An unbroken chain
Links Eve to us, and then became more fine
Since first at Cana water turned to wine.

An ancient custom, from the first creation,
Links man and woman in a chain of gold
And though should truth be told
Because of how the other's blandishment
Made Eden seem the only destination
Of this extended journey, still the old
Edenic imprint lives within this mold
Etched deeper yet in lineaments most fine
Since first at Cana water turned to wine.

Unions of bodies brings us to a state
Where bodies do not matter any more
As bodies issue forth in more profusion
The boundaried self gets lost in the confusion
Perception stands on either side the door.
The soul itself grows somewhat more dilate
For light unending, equal to desire,
(Even in darkness seeking ghostly fire
Creation's embers glowing evermore.)
(I trust, dear friends, you'll pardon the intrusion
Of such discourse, it really is a bore.)
Oh inward light, still outward brightly shine,
Since first at Cana water turned to wine.

Born to restore man's lost Edenic state,
Knowing that marriage was of all creation
The latest miracle and sum of all,
(The final masterpiece before the Fall
And of God's steadfast love a pure summation)
The hour becoming late
And all the pleasure fading from the feast,
Christ Jesus spoke, then opened up the gate
That is reopened still by each oblation,
Quenching angelic flames that barred the East
And kept us from God's love, which is salvation.
Drink to the latest offshoot of this vine,
Since first at Cana water turned to wine.