

# Stand up to your Christian Belief:

Combat between Satan Tempting & a Christian Triumphing  
in the Comfort of the Apostles' Creed,

a Poem

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The chief end of man is to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever

Satan:

Why dost with hope, vile wretch thy soul deceive? Thou must be damned.

Christian:

Not so, for *I believe* (Mk. 16:16).

S:

Yea, so do I (Jm. 2:19), and yet I feel Hell's rod.

C:

Thou but believ'st God is; I trust *in God*.

S:

What thou a sinner (Jn. 9:31), trust? Thou tempt'st Him rather.

C:

Whom should the poor child trust, if not *the Father* (Lk. 11:13)?

S.

The soul that sins must die (Eze. 18:4); thy sins are weighty (Mt. 11:28).

C.

Yet God can pardon them, for he's *Almighty* (Eph. 3:20).

S:

But He's of wicked men a just forsaker (Ps. 14:5).

C:

Yet kind to what He made, and He's my *Maker* (1 Pt. 4:19).

S:

Why hath He made thee smart<sup>1</sup> thus from thy birth?

C:

This is but love from Lord (Heb. 12:6) *of Heaven and earth*.

S:

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<sup>1</sup> hurt

Hark God and angels cry, 'Thou dost displease us.'

C:

And yet in God's my comfort, *and in Jesus* (Mt. 1:21).

S:

In sin th'art born (Jn. 9:34) and bred, and dost persist (Rom. 6:2).

C:

As sin abounds in me, so grace in *Christ* (2 Cor. 5:21).

S:

Why speak'st of grace? The Law makes thee undone (Rom. 8:3).

C:

Nay then, why did God send *his only Son*?

S:

Are not all sinners of his Son abhorred?

C:

No none, who strive to serve Him as *our Lord* (Ps. 2:11-12).

S:

But God cann't die: of hope thou art bereaved.

C:

But yet his manhood may (Rom. 5:8) *which was conceived*.

S:

How can man made of woman, save the lost?

C:

Yes, being made perfect *by the Holy Ghost* (Lk. 1:35).

S:

But thou by nature art a wretch forlorn (Eph. 2:2).

C:

And yet to me in mercy a child is *born* (Isa. 9:6).

S:

But thou art filthy, and thy heart wants<sup>2</sup> purging.

C:

His blood doth cleanse me (1 Jn. 1:7), who came *of the Virgin*.

S:

Presumptuous men, thus to tempt Christ how dare ye?

C:

We tempt not Christ; we joy in Christ with *Mary* (Lk. 1:46).

S:

Thou joy'st in vain: from Him sin puts thee asunder (Isa. 59:2).

C:

Both sin and sinful men He *suffered under* (Mt. 26:4).

S:

What suffer sin, yet just? Thy folly I smile at.

C:

The sin was mine; 'He just,' saith *Pontius Pilate* (Jn. 19:4).

S:

But still the punishments of thy sins abide (Rom. 2:9).

C:

No, for to quit them, He *was crucified* (Acts 2:36,38).

S:

Ah! but the sting of death will wound thy head (Hos. 13:14).

C:

No: Christ pulled out this sting when He was *dead* (1 Cor. 15:55).

S:

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<sup>2</sup> lacks

Can He give life who lies Himself interred?

C:

Yes: and with Him my sins are hid *and buried*.

S:

Thy poor and mean estate shows Christ's offended.

C:

Shall I think much to stoop, when *He descended* (Phil. 2:7-8)?

S:

Fear'st not the scorching flames of my dark cell?

C:

Christ went (Eph. 4:9), that I might not go *into Hell*.

S:

How art assured He freed thee from this pain?

C:

Because *The third day he arose again* (Rom. 4:25),  
and so captivity He captive led,  
rising in glorious triumph *from the dead* (Col. 2:15);  
Nor was my Savior's glory herein ended,  
but after He was risen *He ascended* (Jn. 3:13),  
to fit a place for me, and so hath given  
sure hope that I shall follow Him *into Heaven* (Jn. 14:2),  
where now in all my grief, and dumpish fits,  
He hears my prayers (Jn. 16:23); there He rests *and sits*.

Observe his majesty: He doth not stand  
inferior like, but sits *at the right hand* (Lk. 22:69),  
not of some earthly prince, but his abode  
is in the high and heavenly house *of God*;

Whereas his only Son (Jn. 3:18), He rules, the rather.  
Can He make my requests known to *the Father*,  
that for his sake, my sins which He found weighty  
may be forgiven by Him which is *Almighty*.

S:

If th'art so sure, then sin; here's thy defense, that Christ's in Heaven.

C:

Oh no, He sees *From thence*,  
and waits till wicked men fill up the sum (Gen. 15:16)  
and measure of their sins; then *shall He come* (Rom. 2:5),  
riding with thousands saints, on clouds all spread (Jude 14-15)  
in flames of fire (1 Thess. 1:8) *to judge the quick and dead*.

S:

Then thou condemned shalt be; oh fear and grieve!

C:

Satan, I still deny it, for *I believe* (Jn. 3:18).

S:

In whom believ'st, that thus thou vauntst thy boast?

C:

In Father, Son, and *in the Holy Ghost*,  
who ne're forsakes nor leaves in desperate lurch (Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5; Jn. 17:5,20)  
those who are of *the holy catholic Church*.  
Let Him but take me to Himself in union,  
and give me with his people *the communion*.  
I'm safe, for He to help them never faints  
who keep the band of peace, and faith *of saints* (Eph. 4:4).

S:

Thy ways are crooked and in them's no evenness (Rom. 3:12).

C:

In me's the sin, in God is *the forgiveness* (Lk. 7:42; Acts 5:31).

And here my never ending joy begins,

to know that He's the pardoner *of sins*,

He'll therefore take me to his high protection

when the last trump shall sound *the resurrection* (1 Thess. 4:16).

Void sin and Satan both; my soul why load ye

with desperate words? This temple *of the body*

wherein corruption now and sin is rife (Rom. 7:24)

shall come to perfect glory (Rom. 8:17) *and the life*.

Not such vain earthly life which still is wasting,

but that blest life of Heaven that's *everlasting* (Rom. 6:22).

O Lord increase my faith (Mk. 2:4-5), and grace, that then

I may behold the glory of thy face (1 Cor. 13:12), *Amen*.

First take this shield of faith to arm your hearts,

and if this quench not Satan's fiery darts (Eph. 6:16-17)

(but frequent tempting blows do crush the shield),

the Word's a sword; take that, if he not yield.

Yet fight thou (1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:4) and resist (James 4:8); there's one can do't,

the God of Peace will tread him underfoot (Rom. 16:20).

Ner'e striving souls, 'gainst whom such strokes have passed,

but that their Captain fought them off at last (2 Pet. 2:9; 1 Cor. 10:13).

That grace which first unto this combat moves thee,

make thee a conqueror, through Him that loves thee (Rom. 8:37).

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