

# Hunger Strike

## A.D. 30

Out into the maze of the untracked  
Wilderness walked a solitary Man  
Clothed in a seamless cloak; the darting  
Lizard and the foxes watched as he sat  
On a rock and waited.

Day by day he made no hopeful  
Hunt for food; the desert lion regarded  
Him from a distant hill; even the locusts  
And wild honey remained ungathered.  
Birds perched and sang.

Back in the ordered city the authorities  
Discussed this fasting Man at breakfast  
Dinner and supper; for assorted reasons  
Bulletins proclaimed his fast detrimental  
To the body politic.

The Pharisees, guided by the law of Moses,  
Judged him an irreligious suicide  
Blaspheming the Creator who had moulded  
The essential human animal into an appetite  
A stomach and a bowel.

The Romans, guided by the law of Caesar,  
Saw in this Man a puppet being manipulated  
For propaganda purposes by certain Hebrew  
Subversives too savage to appreciate  
The pax of Mother Rome.

The man went on fasting; but wondered whether  
Death by hunger or by bloody crucifixion  
Would be more to his purpose. Either  
Way he would rise again, and the wilderness  
Could become Eden.

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