â??R.â?•, â??The Toasts. A Fable.â?•

Description

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â??The Toasts. A Fableâ?•

Satan one day (one night I mean,
For days in Hell are seldom seen)
At *Pandemonium* in state
Among his peers carousing sat,
To celebrate our parents fall
In draughts of liquid fire and gall;
The toasts in bumpers flew around,
The palace roofs the toasts resound,
And all was noise, yet all unite
To pelt Heavâ??n with their blunted spite: â??
Beelzebub gave his harlot PRIDE,
To match whose charms he Hell defyâ??d;
ENVY by *BaÃ¤l* then was given,
Foe to herself, to earth, and Heavâ??n;
AVâ??RICE was *Mammon*â??s toast, a vice
Wouâ??d make a Hell of Paradise: â??
My toast, cries *Ashteroth*, shall be
That *Janus*-prude, HYPOCRISY;
And mine, quoâ?? *Belial*, â?? IDLENESS,
Whose charms both fiends and men confess;
Dear IDLENESS! to whom we owe
Myriads on myriads here below; â??
Dagon gave FALSEHOOD, a mean jest,
Still maskâ??d, and cloathâ??d in rainbow-vest;
A will oâ?? thâ?? wisp, that leads astray,
A coward vice, that dreads the day; â??
Moloch gave blood-stainâ??d CRUELTY, â??
And *Thammuz*, INFIDELITY;
But to *that* toast they all objected
As one, no fiend there recollected,
(For, thoâ?? such weeds on earth may grow,
There are no infidels below);
Thammuz on this, â?? since change he must, â??
Gave that sweet creature, Madam LUST:
In short, each demon, in his toast,

Avowâ??d which fair he honourâ??d most.

The turn at length to *Satan* came
To bumper round *his* darling flame;
â??I own that all your toasts,â?• he cried,
â??Are beauties long approvâ??d and tryâ??d,
But Iâ??ll give one, in whom alone
The quintessence of Hell is shown,
INGRATITUDE! â?? of vices *first*,
Most infamous, and most accurst,
That fiend in grain! that *hydra*-pest!
(Behold her image on my breast)
To her Hellâ??s empire owes its birth,
To her I owe those swarms from earth;
When other vices rule the mind,
VIRTUE, by fits, may entrance find,
But let INGRATITUDE bear sway,
Not VIRTUEâ??s shade dare cross her way;
Eâ??en Hell itself, when she appears,
A more than double darkness wears; â??
Then in a bumper toast the *belle*,
As *premier* beauty here in Hell .â?•
The fiends aloud the toast proclaim,
And Hell rethunders with her name;
â??INGRATITUDE! of vices *first*,
Most *infamous*, and most accurst.â?•
York.

NOTES:

Title *Toasts* â??Any person, male or female, whose health is proposed and drunk toâ?• (*OED*).

1 *Satan* â??In Christian theology: the proper name of the Devil, the supreme embodiment or spirit of evilâ?• (*OED*).

3 *Pandemonium* â??A place represented by Milton in *Paradise Lost* as the capital of hell, containing the council chamber of the Evil Spiritsâ?• (*OED*).

4 *carousing* â??To drink a full bumper to his or her healthâ?• (*OED*).

6 *draughts* â??The drawing of liquid into the mouth or down the throat; an act of drinkingâ?• (OED); *gall* â??A wind of considerable strengthâ?• (*OED*)

7 *bumpers* â??A cup or glass of alcoholic drink filled to the brim, esp. for a toastâ?• (*OED*).

11 *Beelzebub* â??In the Bible, the prince of the devilsâ?• (*Britannica*).

13 *BaÃ¤l* A Canaanite god; one of the seven princes of Hell.

15 *AVâ??RICE* â??Inordinate desire of acquiring and hoarding wealthâ?•(*OED*); *Mammon* The personification of avarice and greed in Miltonâ??s *Paradise Lost* (Book I, line 678); sometimes figured as one of the seven princes of Hell (*OED*).

17 *Ashteroth* Variant of â??Astarothâ?• who, along with Lucifer and Beelzebub, made up the evil trinity in Hell (*The Occult Encyclopedia*).

18 *Janus* Ancient Roman deity, â??regarded as the doorkeeper of heaven, as guardian of doors and gates, and as presiding over the entrance upon or beginning of thingsâ?• (*OED*).

19 *Belial* â??The spirit of evil personified; used from early times as a name for the Devil or one of the fiends, and by Milton as the name of one of the fallen angels (*Paradise Lost*, Book I, line 490) (*OED*).

22 *Myriads* â??A countless number of specified things,â?• here alluding to souls in Hell (*OED*).

23 *Dagon* â??The national deity of the ancient Philistines; represented with the head, chest, and arms of a man, and the tail of a fish;â?• also referenced by Milton in *Paradise Lost* (Book I, line 462).

24 *rainbow-vest* Colourful clothing.

25 *will oâ?? thâ?? wisp* â??A phosphorescent light seen hovering or floating at night over marshy groundâ?• (*OED*).

27 *Moloch* â??A Canaanite diety associated in biblical sources with the practice of child sacrificeâ?• (*Britannica*).

28 *Thammuz* â??A Syrian dietyâ?• and minor demon, also represented in Miltonâ??s parade of demons in Hell (*Paradise Lost* Book I, line 446) (*OED*).

32 *infidels* â??A disbeliever in religion or divine revelation generallyâ?• (*OED*).

36 *Avowâ??d* â??To declare, affirmâ?• (*OED*).

42 *quintessence* â??The most perfect embodiment of a certain type of person or thingâ?• (*OED*).

43 *INGRATITUDE* â??Mortal sin is â?¦ ingratitude towards the most constant love; it is the adultery of the soulâ?• (*OED*).

45 *hydra-pest* â??And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemyâ?• (Revelations 13:1-10).

58 *Rethunders* â??To make a loud, echoing sound like that of thunder; to resound. Frequently poeticâ?• (*OED*).

SOURCE: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine*, vol. 46 (January 1776), pp. 229-230. [J. Paul Leonard Library]

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