

Original spelling and punctuation:

Listen sweet dove unto my song And spread thy golden wings in me;
Hatching my tender heart so long Till it get wing and flie away with thee.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow That the earth did like a heaven appear,
The starres were coming down to know If they might mend their wages and serve here.

The sunne which once did shine alone, Hung down his head and wisht for night
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one Going about the world and giving light.

Lord though we change thou art the same, The same sweet God of love and light;
Restore this day for thy great name, Unto his ancient and miraculous right.

(George Herbert, 1633)

Explanation (with modern spelling):

Listen, sweet dove, unto my song And spread Thy golden wings in me,
Hatching my tender heart so long Till it get wing and fly away with Thee.

The poet addresses the Holy Spirit as a dove, asking Him to listen to his song. He compares his heart to an egg, asking the Holy Spirit to hatch this egg so his heart can take wing and fly away with the Spirit.

Such glorious gifts Thou didst bestow That the earth did like a heaven appear;
The stars were coming down to know If they might mend their wages and serve here.

On Pentecost the Holy Spirit (dove) gave such gifts to men that earth seemed like heaven. The shining from the tongues of flame on the Apostles' heads was so glorious that the stars in the heavens were wanting to improve their job by coming down to be a part of life on earth.

The sun, which once did shine alone, Hung down his head and wished for night
When he beheld twelve suns for one, Going about the world and giving light.

The sun once ruled the sky alone, but the flames on the twelve apostles' heads outshone the sun, so that the sun was ashamed. The apostles brought light as great as the sun into the world as they went forth proclaiming the Gospel.

Lord, though we change Thou art the same, The same sweet God of love and light;
Restore this day for Thy great Name, Unto His ancient and miraculous right.

We change, but You do not. You are the God of love and light. For Your Name on this Pentecost Day, restore this same miraculous power, which is our right as Your children, as was given on the first day of Pentecost so that we may be suns, going about the world and giving light to all we encounter.