George Herbert

1/28/13

**Discipline**

Throw away thy rod,   
Throw away thy wrath**:**   
                 O my God,   
Take the gentle path.   
  
For my hearts desire   
Unto thine is bent**:**   
                 I aspire   
To a full consent.   
  
Nor a word or look   
I affect to own,   
                 But by book,   
And thy book alone.   
  
Though I fail, I weep**:**   
Though I halt in pace,   
                 Yet I creep   
To the throne of grace.   
  
Then let wrath remove;   
Love will do the deed**:**   
                 For with love   
Stony hearts will bleed.

Reflection

**Imagery**

There isn’t much imagery in this poem, but the image that is there is an important one. It is about sinning in the presence of a Holy God and so the image is of a humble sinner “creeping” to the throne of God (grace).

**Metaphor/Simile/Personification**

There is one simile of a heart being made of stone, yet bleeding. It is supposed to signify a heart being hard and unmoldable to God’s ways, yet it *is* molded to God’s ways because it bleeds.

**Line Breaks/Stanzas**

All my lines break at the rhyming word to form abab stanzas. All stanzas have four lines each. This doesn’t add to the meaning, but I like the structure.

**Rhyming**

This poem rhymes with an abab structure for each stanza. It doesn’t add meaning to the poem, but I liked the sound of it and I like the challenge of rhyming.

**Meaning**

This poem is all about sinning and actually feeling bad about it. “Though I fail, I weep”. It is about coming to God as sinners, but coming to him humbly so that he can change our hearts.

**Title**

I tried to make a title that can have two meanings. Is this discipline from God? A strange kind of discipline that consists of throwing away the wrath and using love to discipline? Or is “discipline” referring to the self-discipline of approaching the throne of God?

**What Else?**

In addition to rhyming, this poem has a set number of beats in each line. There are five syllables in most of the lines, but the third line in each stanza is only three syllables.