

# The Philosopher

Emily Bronte

Enough of thought, philosopher!  
Too long hast thou been dreaming  
Unlightened, in this chamber drear,  
While summer's sun is beaming!  
Space-sweeping soul, what sad refrain  
Concludes thy musings once again?

"Oh, for the time when I shall sleep  
Without identity.  
And never care how rain may steep,  
Or snow may cover me!  
No promised heaven, these wild desires  
Could all, or half fulfil;  
No threatened hell, with quenchless fires,  
Subdue this quenchless will!"

"So said I, and still say the same;  
Still, to my death, will say--  
Three gods, within this little frame,  
Are warring night; and day;  
Heaven could not hold them all, and yet  
They all are held in me;  
And must be mine till I forget  
My present entity!  
Oh, for the time, when in my breast  
Their struggles will be o'er!  
Oh, for the day, when I shall rest,  
And never suffer more!"

"I saw a spirit, standing, man,  
Where thou dost stand--an hour ago,  
And round his feet three rivers ran,  
Of equal depth, and equal flow--  
A golden stream--and one like blood;  
And one like sapphire seemed to be;  
But, where they joined their triple flood  
It tumbled in an inky sea  
The spirit sent his dazzling gaze  
Down through that ocean's gloomy night;  
Then, kindling all, with sudden blaze,  
The glad deep sparkled wide and bright--  
White as the sun, far, far more fair  
Than its divided sources were!"

"And even for that spirit, seer,  
I've watched and sought my life-time long;  
Sought him in heaven, hell, earth, and air,  
An endless search, and always wrong.  
Had I but seen his glorious eye  
ONCE light the clouds that wilder me;  
I ne'er had raised this coward cry  
To cease to think, and cease to be;

I ne'er had called oblivion blest,  
Nor stretching eager hands to death,  
Implored to change for senseless rest  
This sentient soul, this living breath--  
Oh, let me die--that power and will  
Their cruel strife may close;  
And conquered good, and conquering ill  
Be lost in one repose!"