

60

Seventh Year
Small Rhymes for Great Books

Plato: Gorgias

1 The aim of all philosophy,
Said Socrates should be
Not rhetoric but justice
Though it means death for us.

Aristotle: On the Soul

2 The soul, as Aristotle thought,
Partakes of senses five, -
Of mind and motion and the will,
Its powers to derive.

Bhagavad-Gita

3 Beyond desire and fruits of toil,
With hopes of future bliss, -
Nevana waits for those who strive
For purity like this.

Boethius: Consolation of Philosophy.

4 Through study of philosophy,
Boethius explained,
For loss of fame and fortune
An inner peace is gained.

Maimonides: Guide for the Perplexed, selections.

5 Philosophy and reason,
Maimonides maintained,
Must be combined with vision,
Ere wisdom is attained.

Donne: Holy Sonnets

6 The Holy Sonnets of Donne John
His hopes and fears reveal
Of future bliss and punishment
That would his future seal.

(Continued)

7 A

Moliere: Tartuffe

That hypocrite o'er reach themselves
 Tartuffe learned to his cost;
 Pretending good through perfidy,
 Both wealth and love were lost.

7 B

Moliere: The Misanthrope

Withdire distrust of all mankind
 The misanthrope discovers
 That friends soon come to think of him
 As he thinks of all others.

Leibniz: Discourse on Metaphysics.

8

The best way is the easiest,
 Both men and Nature find,
 For God is architect supreme,
 As Leibniz' work outlined.

(Note: See last paragraph
 of Leibniz, Page 33 and
 last paragraph page 87 &
 First " " 88
 Of Political Economy by
 Henry George.)

9

Kant: Fundamental Principles of
the Metaphysics of Morals.

The "categorical imperative"
 Presumes the Will is free,
 So that a "universal law"
 Each moral act should be.

10

Goethe: Faust, Part I

New life, new love, at any price,
 We find that Faust would chance;
 Too late he learns the Devil's game,
 Will only grief enhance.

II

Schopenhauer: The World as Will
and Idea, selections.

Schopenhauer: The World as Will and Idea,
 selections.
 The will to live ideas give
 To struggle on in life
 But on the whole, as death's the goal
 It isn't worth the strife.

Seventh Year (Continued)

I2 Kierkegaard; Concluding Unscientific Postscript, Selections

This book takes many words to say
A simple faith is best;
It isn't the Establishment, -
Existence is the test.

I3 Dostoyevsky; Notes from Underground.

Though poor, yet proud to be himself,
With scorn for all mankind,
His savagery and tenderness
With genius was combined.

I4 Conrad; Heart of Darkness.

The continent of Africa
So dark at heart and wild,
Reacts its would-be conquerors,
With hopes of wealth beguiled.

I5 Freud; The Interpretation of Dreams, Chapter 7

Our dream-world and real-world,
As Freud reviews the two,
Each helps explain the other,
Whatever you think or do.

I6 Shaw; Man and Superman.

A man, says Shaw, is just a man, -
But woman's superman,
Her mission being motherhood,
Let him escape who can,

Mabel L. Rees
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