

Original Sin

What's with this Original Sin?
The Christians demonizing it
the Jews skirting its rim –
if not apologizing for it.

It's the most inspiring story
you find in the Bible.
And there it is, in all its glory,
right after the preludial Eden eyeful.

That tree of knowledge just going to waste:
the one at which they'd been told just to *Look*.
If Eve and Adam hadn't been told not to taste.
Would they have been as effectively hooked ?

But *Don't taste* – that has an appeal
that's almost meant to ensnare.
So our forebears slip on that apple peel
and we're taught the lesson: always dare!

And the trade-off? This expulsion from Eden
where every day's the same – like California?
That's supposed to fill us with revulsion?
Sorry, I have to warn ya:

I'll plant my own trees
sow my own seeds.
Resolve my own strife
choose my own wife.

Original? Yes!
Sin? Not on your life!

Hey, you readers of the Book.
There's good stuff there;
the seven-day week
the Jubilee year.

The challenge to look at the other side
try something untried.
And all of this at a trifling cost:
it's just, after all, Paradise lost.

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