

P.47

Small Rhymes for Great Books- (Third Year)

The Book of Job.

1
Though upright, Job was punished,
Yet no revenge sought he;
Affliction of the righteous
Is still a mystery.

Aeschylus; The Oresteia.

2
But Orestes dared the Furies
To revenge an evil deed;
He claimed the act was justified
As Apollo had decreed.

Thucydides; History of the Peloponnesian War.

3
Political maneuverings
Thucydides explained:
We find he knew the many ways
That countries waxed and waned.

Plato: Symposium

4
The search for love is search for good,
From Socrates we learn;
What other men call love, he said,
They later come to spurn.

Aristotle; Politics, Bks. 3-5

5
Our varied forms of government,
As Aristotle shows,
Though we may think them something new,
In ancient Greece arose.

St Thomas Aquinas; Treatise on Law: qq 90-97 from
the Summa Theologiae, I-II

6
Just what is law? Aquinas asks,
And says there are four kinds:
Divine, eternal, natural,
And manmade law, he finds.

Third Year Book Rhymes Continued.

Rabelais : Gargantua & Pantagruel Bk. I

7
While scoffing at hypocrisy
It took a Rabelais,
With vulgar jest and ribaldry,
Men's follies to portray.

Calvin: Institutes, Bk 2, Ch. 2 Bk. 4 Ch 20

8
John Calvin searched the scriptures
And concluded that he knew
Just what God desired
That everyone should do.

Shakespeare: King Lear

9
His wealth and kingdom Lear resigned
To those he thought were just,
But they, with power in their hands,
Were traitors to their trust.

Francis Bacon: Novum Organum, Bk. I

10
In Bacon's Novum Organum
He once for all explained
That through inductive methods
True progress is attained.

Locke: Of Civil Government.

11
The earth, Locke said, is here for all,
Man's living to provide, -
To gain from it his sustenance
And on it to reside.

Voltaire; Candide

12
Candide so used to wrongs became
He thought that they were right,
And never sought for remedies
To help the world's sad plight.

3

Third Year Book Rhymes Continued.

Rousseau: The Social Contract, Bks I-2

13
Inherent rights all men resign,
According to Rousseau,
When they contract with government
Their freedom to forego.

Gibbon: Decline and Fall; Chs. 15-16.

14
The problems raised in early Rome,
When three religions met,
Gave rise to many arguments
That aren't settled yet.

Dostoyevsky: The Brothers Karamazov
Part 2, Bk. 5, Ch. 5; Bk. 6, Chs. 1-3

15
The Brothers Karamazov filled
Quite different spheres in life;
As soldier, gentleman and priest,
Their meetings led to strife.

Freud: The Origin & Development of Psychoanalysis

16
In Freud's Psychoanalysis,
The Writer seeks to show
The way to cure a complex
Is to sublimate your woe.

A Great Books Reader 2

(17)
The mysteries of life and death,
And all creation, too,
Philosophers attempt to solve
With concepts old and new.

Mabel L. Rees