

GEORGE HERBERT  
“THE ELIXIR” (1633)<sup>1</sup>

Teach me, my God and King,  
In all things Thee to see,  
And what I do in anything  
To do it as for Thee.

Not rudely, as a beast,  
To run into an action;  
But still to make Thee prepossest,  
And give it his perfection.

A man that looks on glass,  
On it may stay his eye;  
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,  
And then the heav'n espy.

All may of Thee partake:  
Nothing can be so mean,  
Which with his tincture—"for Thy sake"—  
Will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause  
Makes drudgery divine:  
Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws,  
Makes that and th' action fine.

This is the famous stone  
That turneth all to gold;  
For that which God doth touch and own  
Cannot for less be told.

1. For further information, see Sims, Marc. “The Elixir by George Herbert. January 3, 2024. <https://marcjssims.com/2024/01/03/the-elixir-by-george-herbert/>. Accessed November 27, 2024.

