

Locusts
and
Wild Honey

Poems by
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1. Perspective

My tears
are a tinkling bell
at the bottom of a well
while all around me
thunderous wonders swell.

2. Mercy

These startling particles
of kindness
remind me
how sparkling stars
dignify the darkness.

3. Sleeping

Hypnotized by lies
their lives
fly by
and not one cries
O why, O why?
– not even once –
before they die.

4. Thrush

Her tunes are innumerable.

They fill my ears,
even after their
sweetness disappears,
and all I hear
is an empty sky.

5. Snail

Seen from a height:
Unemotional
slow motion,
with tiny antennae
angling in the evening light.

6. Soccer

Some shots
are impossible to stop
but they give the simple
a glimpse
of invincibility.

7. New Order

Imagine a world
without strawberry jam
and lemons and spices
and slices of ham,
where giggles and tickles
and cuddles opine
and all we have left
is a nickel and dime.

8. Nursery Rhyme

“As narrow as an arrow
cut for a sparrow,”
as Cock Robin said,
before the foregoing
bird demurred
and shot him dead.

9. Sword

His Word endures
for sure,
while mighty sagas
capsize
beneath the raging waves
of paganism.

10. Funeral Song

Everyone was crying,
even the undertaker.

Her voice was sunshine
on the marble floor.

Otherwise silence.

We all listened, expectantly,
for the Resurrection.

11. Hell

Her marble halls

keep calling,

but underneath

her residents excrete

unbelievable screams.

12. Outer Space

A vast black vacuum

beyond the skies

is even more ridiculous

than super-sized

lizards

living herbivorously

on a spinning ball.

13. Crocodile

After a long period
of seeming indifference
a sudden burst
of thrashing shows
that her eyes never close.

14. Physics

It explains everything,
they say,
until you try to
glue it all together
without using
scoops of hubris
and cyanide lies.

15. Wickedness

If something seems
more obscene
than a vaccine,
or more vile
than a pedophile,
then you need to revisit
the scene of the crime.

16. Summertime

My leafy lane
is abundant
with tiny delights,
unlike our local zoo,
whose elephant I knew.

17. *Harpazo*

As the man from Tarsus said
– in the blink of an eye,
as trumpets sound –
the frozen ground
gives up her
lonely bones
and believers breathe
a radiant sky!

18. Delight

I heard a song so sweet
that the angels sang it
in silence,
with the smile
of a child hiding
where no-one could find him.

19. Laodicean

Unsettling epithet,
chosen by Jesus
to speak out-of-season
to the mumbling mummies
who forget so easily.

20. Amusing

I really don't know
why his old jokes
made me laugh.
Sometimes it's nice to
hang around folks
and simply soak.

21. The Somme

Red fields
for the Red Shields
whose love of blood
is sweetened by the screams
of dapper lads
deceived
by jingo lingo
and mincing queens.

22. Jacobus

O little tripper-upper,
why did your brother
pay so high a price
for his supper?
Surely he knew
– for he didn't think twice –
the turn of the screw?

23. Sunday

The Just One
stunned everyone,
and left behind
a folded cloth,
a token of
his Father's wrath.

24. Hail Storm

The frantic hammering
I understand
but not the shock
that comes with each distinctive
ping, as though each
individually
was trying to get in.

25. Courier

When I used the word

“marginally”

he stared.

Such terms are rare

in his locality.

As he left

he said he expected the weather

to improve – albeit

“marginally!”

26. Crab

Though he sidles to the side

as if to hide

his backside

he still finds a way to make

his lateral dance

advance.

27. The Baptist

Locusts and wild honey.

No sign of Elijah’s ravens

or Sinai quail.

But for John a feast,

or at least

enough to live on.

28. Job

Those guys were driving me
up the wall.

Their constant prattle
rattled in my ears.

If they had sat
just a little closer
they would have seen
my tears.

29. Eggs

These perfect packages
exactly match
the residential needs
of their aqueous sacs
– until they hatch.

30. Television

A mind-binding device
spying inside
the space
that our Creator
set aside
to savor His grace.

31. Bazaar

Useless accoutrements,
lying loosely in booths,
a foreshore of hell
intruding rudely
on our wish to resist.
And yet they sell.

32. Khoisan

He made his way
across the great Karoo
to impale an impala,
but he failed to arrive.
Adieu. Adieu.

33. Coffins

Jesus made these
obsolete,
these obnoxious boxes
that mock
the living God.

34. Narrow Way

No cartographer
has drawn it in his chart,
or etched its feeble line,
or found a way
to enable its
sacred destination
to impinge
on his design.

35. Campanella

The bells of heaven
are ringing in my ears,
their tiny chimes
reciting
with infinite delight
the grace and mercy
of the Almighty.

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For further information visit www.zephaniah.eu

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