The Mercury



The Student Art & **Literary Magazine** of Gettysburg College

Volume 2023 Article 23

May 2023

Lycidas Hath Fallen

Rory J. Wainwright Gettysburg College

Follow this and additional works at: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/mercury



Part of the Art and Design Commons, and the Creative Writing Commons

Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.

Recommended Citation

Wainwright, Rory J. () "Lycidas Hath Fallen," The Mercury: Year 2023, Article 23. Available at: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/mercury/vol2023/iss1/23

This open access poetry is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact cupola@gettysburg.edu.

Lycidas Hath Fallen

Author Bio

My name is Rory Wainwright, I am an English major with a Writing concentration from Akron, Ohio. Writing has always been my passion, especially pieces about interpreting religion and art. Poetry is my favorite genre, with drama as a close second. I also enjoy writing about Greek Mythology and the action of play writing. I plan to graduate from Gettysburg and attend a graduate program of my choice to become an Environmental writer, and to continue to write poetry in my free time.

Lycidas Hath Fallen

RORY J. WAINWRIGHT

Lycidas tumbled to the ground

Back arching, elbows aching, skull cracked like broken bells clattering in the night sky

His eyes rolled to his brain, reaching for the scorched air, the rays of liquid fire revealing bone, revealing palm—

To keep him from crashing into 100 Galilean Seas and psalms

Waves crashing into splintered glass and shards of shells, sharp enough to cut stones, cut skin,

Dripping in sweet red nectar, gallantly thin

Staining pages of crumbled book bindings,

Ripping flesh and fantasy from the moon's blindings

For Lycidas must choose.

His body rose at the feet of Satan—

Steaming breath fanning over his papery face.

Shall he choose the garden over molten beams of ripe tangled streams— Lycidas must become one with shackled wrists and tar-stained screams

For it is better to reign in Hell than rule in Heaven.

Eve's snake runs cold over his skin,

Scales gleaming decorated with darkly chosen sins

Shining like the shackles of gun metal chained around his raw wrists

For Lycidas hath chosen,

The watery depths of his own demise,

Seeing twinkling lights shine like showers in the water-colored navy sky

The red skin of the apple was tainted with rot,

Worms trickling over the edge of his charred-stained lots

The only option waiting at his planted feet

Hath Hell has gained another follower,

To part the sea of gushing fears

To jingle the rust of Peter's solemn Keys

God has lost a saint today

For Lycidas opens the doors of Hell

Waiting for those who enter at the sound of the chiming bells.