

# *The Philosopher*

*Emily Bronte*



Enough of thought, philosopher!  
Too long hast thou been dreaming  
Unlightened, in this chamber drear,  
While summer's sun is beaming!  
Space-sweeping soul, what sad refrain  
Concludes thy musings once again?

“Oh, for the time when I shall sleep  
Without identity.  
And never care how rain may steep,  
Or snow may cover me!  
No promised heaven, these wild desires  
Could all, or half fulfil;  
No threatened hell, with quenchless fires,  
Subdue this quenchless will!”

“So said I, and still say the same;  
Still, to my death, will say—  
Three gods, within this little frame,  
Are warring night; and day;  
Heaven could not hold them all, and yet  
They all are held in me;  
And must be mine till I forget  
My present entity!  
Oh, for the time, when in my breast  
Their struggles will be o'er!  
Oh, for the day, when I shall rest,  
And never suffer more!”

“I saw a spirit, standing, man,  
Where thou dost stand—an hour ago,

And round his feet three rivers ran,  
Of equal depth, and equal flow—  
A golden stream—and one like blood;  
And one like sapphire seemed to be;  
But, where they joined their triple flood  
It tumbled in an inky sea

The spirit sent his dazzling gaze  
Down through that ocean's gloomy night;  
Then, kindling all, with sudden blaze,  
The glad deep sparkled wide and bright—  
White as the sun, far, far more fair  
Than its divided sources were!”

“And even for that spirit, seer,  
I've watched and sought my life-time long;  
Sought him in heaven, hell, earth, and air,  
An endless search, and always wrong.

Had I but seen his glorious eye  
Once light the clouds that wilder me;  
I ne'er had raised this coward cry  
To cease to think, and cease to be;

I ne'er had called oblivion blest,  
Nor stretching eager hands to death,  
Implored to change for senseless rest  
This sentient soul, this living breath—  
Oh, let me die—that power and will  
Their cruel strife may close;  
And conquered good, and conquering ill  
Be lost in one repose!”

