

In my old haunts the Bible-beaters reign  
(now that my demon self am exorcised)  
New Testament believers (unrevised)  
sing out their fathers' fathers' old refrain:

“Faith unexamined is the longest held  
Natural selection favors those  
Upon whose lives the fewest needs impose  
And men toward creed untested are impelled.”

But some dark salty sea was once our home  
until one foolish fish crept out to graze  
on herbs beneath the harsh sun's killing blaze  
The timid ones stayed safe beneath the foam

Of these two patterns we still seem designed  
The heretics, and those we leave behind