

E) re: final stanza (lines 22-25)

E1) line 22 “the bird rises” – “phoenix” in the OED Online: In classical mythology: a bird resembling an eagle but with sumptuous red and gold plumage, which was said to live for five or six hundred years in the deserts of Arabia, before burning itself to ashes on a funeral pyre ignited by the sun and fanned by its own wings, only to rise from its ashes with renewed youth to live through another such cycle.

E2) Ovid on the phoenix (Dryden’s famous translation of the *Metamorphoses* (15.258-284):

258 All these receive their Birth from other Things;
259 But from himself the **Phoenix** only springs:
260 Self-born, begotten by the Parent Flame
261 In which he burn'd, Another, and the same;
262 Who not by Corn, or Herbs his Life sustains,
263 But the sweet Essence of Amomum drains:
264 And watches the rich Gums Arabia bears,
265 While yet in tender **Dew** they drop their **Tears**
...
280 An **Infant-Phoenix** from the former springs,
281 His Father's Heir, and from his tender Wings
282 Shakes off his Parent Dust, his Method he
pursues,
283 And the same Lease of Life on the same Terms
renews.
284 When grown to Manhood he begins his **Reign**;

E3) examples of “dew” in Shakespeare:

R2.5.1.7-10:

7 But soft, but see, or rather do not see,
8 My fair rose wither: yet look up, behold,
9 That you in pity may dissolve to **dew**,
10 And wash him fresh again with true-love **tears**.

Hamlet.1.2.129-130:

129 O that this too too solid flesh would melt,
130 Thaw, and resolve itself into a **dew**!

“Adam’s Song” (from *Sea Grapes*, p. 13)

1 The adulteress stoned to death
2 is killed in our own time
3 by whispers, by the breath
4 that films her flesh with slime.

5 The first was Eve,
6 who horned God for the serpent,
7 for Adam’s sake—which makes
8 everyone guilty or Eve innocent.

9 Nothing has changed,
10 for men still sing the song that Adam sang
11 against the world he lost to vipers,

12 the song to Eve
13 against his own damnation;
14 he sang it in the evening of the world

15 with lights coming on in the eyes
16 of panthers in the peaceable kingdom
17 and his death coming out of the trees,

18 he sings it, frightened
19 of the jealousy of God and at the price
20 of his own death.

21 The song ascends to God, who wipes his eyes:

22 “Heart, you are in my heart as the **bird rises**,
23 heart, you are in my heart while the sun sleeps,
24 heart, you lie still in me as the **dew** is,
25 you weep within me, as the **rain** weeps.”

E4) possible homophonic word-play in final line

Implied **rain/reign** (and *sail/sale*) in the opening lines of Walcott’s “Map of the New World”

1 At the end of this sentence, **rain** will begin.
2 At the **rain**'s edge, a **sail**.
3 Slowly the **sail** will lose sight of islands;
4 into a mist will go the belief in harbors
5 of an entire race.

F) misc. “Adam” passages in Walcott’s poetry:

F1) from “New World” (*Sea Grapes*, p. 13):

1 Then after Eden,
2 was there one surprise?
3 yes, the awe of Adam
4 at the first bead of sweat.

5 Thenceforth, all flesh
6 had to be sown with salt,
7 to feel the edge of seasons,
8 fear and harvest,
9 joy that was difficult,
10 but was, at least, his own.

F2) misc. passages from *Omeros*:

7.3.18-19:

18 . . . her forehead glazed with the sweat
19 of the bride-sleep that soothed **Adam in paradise**

35.3.25-35:

25 The clouds turned blank pages, the book I was
reading
26 was like Plunkett charting the Battle of the Saints.
27 The New World was wide enough for a **new Eden**
28 **of various Adams**. A smell of innocence
29 like that of the first heavy snow came off the page
30 as I inhaled the spine. She walked past the lanterns
31 where some bark canoes were moored to the
landing stage,
32 then paused to look at the waltzers in their ghost
dance,
33 then stood at the window clapping transparent
hands.

34 When one grief afflicts us we choose a sharper grief
35 in hope that enormity will ease affliction,