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Something to Believe In

Carter MacDonald

Utah State University, piutscam@gmail.com

Amma Christiansen

Utah State University, amma.christensen@aggiemail.usu.edu

Robin Curry

Utah State University, robincurryusa@gmail.com

Sabrina Owens

Utah State University, showens00@gmail.com

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“As Watchers hang upon the East-”

-Emily Dickinson

Amma Christensen, Sabrina Owens, Robin
Curry, Carter Macdonald



Central Argument

Research question: How does Emily Dickinson help readers to develop/question their faith?

Central Argument: Dickinson functions as a spiritual advisor and encourages individuals to have their own relationship with the divine through first questioning faith and then deciding what they believe.

Initial Interpretation

As Watchers hang upon the East --
As Beggars revel at a feast
By savory fancy spread --
As Brooks in Deserts, babble sweet
On Ear too far for the delight --
Heaven beguiles the tired.

As that same Watcher when the East
Opens the lid of Amethyst
And lets the morning go --
That Beggar, when an honored Guest --
Those thirsty lips to flagons pressed --
Heaven to us, if true.



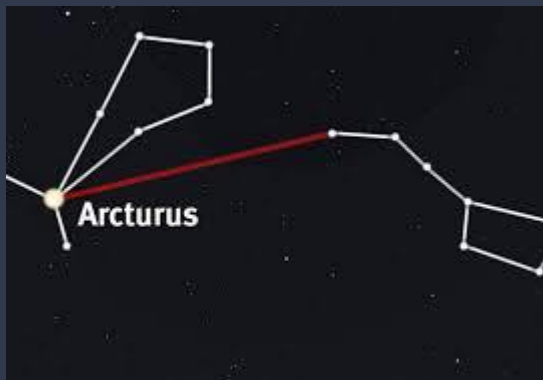
Fascicle Sheet 1

So from the **mould**
Scarlet and Gold
Many a Bulb will rise --
Hidden away, cunningly,
From sagacious eyes.

So from the Cocoon
Many a Worm
Leap so Highland gay,
Peasants like me --
Peasants like Thee,
Gaze **perplexedly!**



Fascicle Sheet 3



"Arcturus" is his other name —

I'd rather call him "Star."

It's very mean of Science

To go and interfere!

I slew a worm the other day —

A "Savant" passing by

Murmured "Resurgam" — "Centipede"!

"Oh Lord — how frail are we"!

I pull a flower from the woods —

A monster with a glass

Computes the stamens in a breath —

And has her in a "class"!

Whereas I took the Butterfly"

Aforetime in my hat —

He sits erect in "Cabinets" —

The Clover bells forgot.

Aforetime in my hat —

He sits erect in "Cabinets" —

The Clover bells forgot.

What once was "Heaven" Is "Zenith"

now —

Where I proposed to go

When Time's brief masquerade was

done

Is mapped and charted too.

What if the poles should frisk about

And stand upon their heads!

I hope I'm ready for "the worst" —

Whatever prank betides!

Perhaps the "Kingdom of Heaven's"

changed —

I hope the "Children" there

Won't be "new fashioned" when I

come —

And laugh at me — and stare —

I hope the Father in the skies

Will lift his little girl —

Old fashioned — naught — everything

—

Over the stile of "Pearl."

Fascicle Sheet 4

A throe upon the features -

A hurry in the breath -

An extasy of parting

Denominated "Death" -

An anguish at the mention

Which when to patience grown -

I've known permission given

To rejoin its own



Conclusion

What is Dickinson really saying after all these interpretations?

- Don't be a sheep when it comes to belief and faith
- Readers should believe in what they experience and should come to terms with their own interpretations.
- Heaven will look different for every person

