

The Collar Quotations

Writer: George Herbert | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

***"I struck the board, and cried, "No more;
I will abroad!"***

We clearly see that the poet is feeling the weight of religious duties. He hits the table and says he will go out and leave his religious life. This means he is angry and tired. He longs to do whatever he wants.

***"Sure there was wine
Before my sighs did dry it; there was corn
Before my tears did drown it."***

The poet thinks he only gets sorrow and guilt in return for his religious faith. He remembers a time when he felt joyful. He says there was "wine" and "corn" in his life. It means his life was full of pleasure and blessings.

***"Forsake thy cage,
Thy rope of sands,
Which petty thoughts have made,"***

The speaker is having doubts about his religious faith. He starts to convince himself that his faith is just a false "cage" he has built for himself from his own "thoughts."

"Child!

And I replied My Lord."

When the speaker is ready to leave his religious duties, he thinks a voice is calling him: "Child!" God does not argue or punish. He just calls him gently—"Child." And the poet's heart changes. He answers with love—"My Lord." This simple ending shows that the poet's love for God is stronger than doubt.