

# Of Honey and Of Vinegar

## Four Poems by Emily Dickinson

### I

As imperceptibly as Grief  
The Summer tapsed away ~  
~~~ Nature spending with herself  
Sequestered afternoon. ~~~  
A courteous, yet harrowing Grace,  
As Guest, that would be gone ~~~~  
Our Summer made her light escape  
Into the Beautiful.

c. 1865

### II

The Bible is an antique [Volume/ Tome]  
Written by faded Men  
At the suggestion of Holy Spectres ~  
Subjects - Bethlehem ~  
Eden ~ the ancient Homestead ~  
Satan ~ the Brigadier ~  
Judas ~ the Great Defaulter ~  
David ~ the Troubadour ~  
Sin ~ a distinguished Precipice ~  
Others must resist ~  
Boys that "believe" are very lonesome ~  
Other Boys are "lost" ~  
Had but the Tale a warbling Teller ~  
All the Boys would come ~  
Orpheus' Sermon captivated ~  
It did not condemn ~

c. 1882

### III

How soft this Prison is  
How sweet these sullen bars  
No despot but the King of Down  
Invented this repose

Of Fate if this is all  
Has he no added Realm  
A dungeon but a Kinsman is  
Incarceration ~ Home ~

c. 1875

### IV

Split the Lark ~ [ ] you'll find the Music ~  
Bulb after Bulb, in Silver rolled ~  
Scantily dealt to the Summer Morning  
Saved for your Ear when Lutes be old.

Loose the Flood ~~~  
Gush after Gush ~~~  
Scarlet Experiment! Sceptic Thomas!  
Now, do you doubt that your Bird was true?

c. 1864