

Classic Poetry Series

**George Sandys**  
**- poems -**

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# George Sandys(2 March 1577 – March 1644)

George Sandys was an English traveller, colonist and poet.

## <b>Life</b>

He was born in Bishopsthorpe, the seventh and youngest son of Edwin Sandys, archbishop of York. He studied at St Mary Hall, Oxford, but took no degree. On his travels, which began in 1610, he first visited France; from north Italy he passed by way of Venice to Constantinople, and thence to Egypt, Mt. Sinai, Palestine, Cyprus, Sicily, Naples and Rome. His narrative, dedicated, like all his other works, to Charles (either as prince or king), was published in 1615, and formed a substantial contribution to geography and ethnology.

He also took great interest in the earliest English colonization in America. In April 1621 he became colonial treasurer of the Virginia Company and sailed to Virginia with his niece's husband, Sir Francis Wyatt, the new governor.

When Virginia became a crown colony, Sandys was created a member of council in August 1624; he was reappointed to this post in 1626 and 1628. In 1631 he vainly applied for the secretaryship to the new special commission for the better plantation of Virginia; soon after this he returned to England for good.

In 1621 he had already published an English translation of part of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*; this he completed in 1626; on this mainly his poetic reputation rested in the 17th and 18th centuries. He also began a version of Virgil's *Aeneid*, but never produced more than the first book. In 1636 he issued his famous *Paraphrase upon the Psalms and Hymns dispersed throughout the Old and New Testaments*; and he translated *Christ's Passion* from the Latin of Grotius; and in 1641 he brought out his last work, a *Paraphrase of the Song of Songs*. He died, unmarried, at Boxley, near Maidstone, Kent, in 1644.

His verse was deservedly praised by Dryden and Pope; Milton was somewhat indebted to Sandys's *Hymn to my Redeemer* (inserted in his travels at the place of his visit to the Holy Sepulchre) in his *Ode on the Passion*.

## <b>Family</b>

His brother Edwin Sandys (same name as his father) was a politician and an influential member of the London Virginia Company. George Sandys was the uncle of Richard Lovelace (1618–1657), an English poet in the seventeenth century.

# All, From The Sun's Uprise

All, from the sun's uprise  
Unto his setting rays,  
Resound in jubilees  
The great Creator's praise!  
Him serve alone;  
In triumph bring  
Your gifts, and sing  
Before His throne!

Man drew from man his birth;  
But God his noble frame,  
(Built of the ruddy earth,)  
Filled with celestial flame.  
His sons we are,  
By Him are led,  
Preserved and fed  
With tender care.

Then to His portals press  
In your divine resorts;  
With thanks His power profess,  
And praise Him in His courts.  
How good! how pure!  
His mercies last;  
His promise past  
Is ever sure.

George Sandys

# My God, Thy Suppliant Hear

My God, thy suppliant hear:  
Afford a gentle ear:  
For I am comfortless,  
And labour in distress.

Thy servant, Lord, defend,  
Whose hopes on Thee depend:  
From wasting sorrow free  
The heart long vowed to Thee.

For Thou art God alone,  
To tender pity prone,  
Propitious unto all  
Who on thy mercy call.

But, O Thou King of kings,  
From whom sweet mercy springs,-  
Then ready to be found  
When troubles most abound,-

O hear my fervent prayer,  
And take me to thy care;  
Direct me in thy way;  
So shall I never stray.

George Sandys

# Praise From All Men

All from the sun's uprise,  
Unto his setting rays,  
Resound in jubilees  
The great Jehovah's praise.  
Him serve alone;  
In triumph bring  
Your gifts, and sing  
Before his throne.

Man drew from man his birth,  
But God his noble frame,  
Built of the ruddy earth,  
Filled with celestial flame.  
His sons we are;  
Sheep by Him led,  
Preserved and fed  
With tender care.

On to his portals press  
In your divine resorts;  
With thanks his power profess,  
And praise Him in his courts.  
How good! how pure!  
His mercies last;  
His promise past  
Fore ever sure.

George Sandys

# The Life Of Ovid

## Book I

The World, form'd out of Chaos. Man is made.  
The Ages change. The Giants Heauen inuade.  
Earth turnes their blood to men. Ioue's flames confound  
Lycaon, now a Wolfe. The World is drown'd.  
Man-kind, cast stones restore. All quickning Earth  
Renewes the rest, and giues new Monsters birth.  
Apollo, Python kills; heart-wounded, Ioues  
Lust-flying Daphne; Shee a Lawrell proues.  
Ioue, Iö made a Cow, to maske foule deeds.  
Hermes, a Heardsman. Syrinx, chang'd to Reeds.  
Dead Argu's eyes adorne the Peacocks frame.  
The Cow, to Iö, Ioue transformes againe.

## Book II

Rash Phaeton fires the World. His sisters mourne  
His Tragedie; who into Poplars turne;  
Their teares to Amber; Cygnus, to a Swan.  
Ioue, Phoebe-like, Calisto found a Man:  
Her, Iuno made a Beare: Shee, and her son,  
Aduanced starres, that still the Ocean shun.  
Coronis, now a Crow, flyes Neptunes fright.  
Nictimine is made the Bird of Night.  
The too-officious Rauens, late so faire,  
Is plum'd with blacke. Ocyroë growes a Mare.  
Phoebus, a Heardsman: Mercury, twice such;  
Who turnes betraying Battus into Tuch.  
Enuious Aglauros, to a Statue, full  
Of her minde's spots. Loue Ioue conuertes t'a Bull.

## Book III

Arm'd troops from Dragons late-sowne teeth arise.  
By his owne Hounds the Hart Actaeon dies.  
Iuno a Beldame. Semele doth frie  
In wisht imbraces. Bacchus from Ioues thigh  
Takes second birth. The wise Tiresias twice

Doth change his sex. Scorn'd Echo pines t' a voice:  
Selfe-lou'd Narcissus to a Daffadill.  
Bacchus, a Boy. The Tyrrhen's ship stands still,  
With Iuy mor'd. Strange shapes the Saylers fright:  
Who Dolphines turne, and still in ships delight.

#### Book IV

Derceta, a Fish. Semiramis a Doue.  
Transforming Nais equall Fate doth proue.  
White berryes Louers blood with blacke defiles.  
Apollo, like Eurynome, beguiles  
Leucothoe, buried quick for that offence:  
Who, Nectar sprinkled, sprouts to Frankincense.  
Grieu'd Clytie, turn'd t' a Flowr, turns with the Sun.  
Daphnis, to Stone. Sex changeth Scytheon.  
Celmus, a Load-stone. Curets, got by showres.  
Crocus, and Smilax turn'd to little flowres.  
In one Hermaphrodite, two bodies ioyne.  
Mineides, Bats. Sad Ino made diuine,  
With Melicert. Who Iunos fact vpbay'd,  
Or statues, or Cadmean Fowles are made.  
Hermione and Cadmus, worne with woe,  
Proue hurtlesse Dragons. Drops to Serpents growe.  
Atlas, a Mountayne. Gorgon toucht Sea-weeds  
To Corall change. From Gorgons blood, proceeds  
Swift Pegasus: Crysaor also takes  
From thence his birth. Faire haire conuert to Snakes.

#### Book V

The Gorgon seene, Cephenei Statues growe:  
So Phineus, Praetus, Polydect, the foe  
To Perseus prayse. The fountaine Hippocrene  
By Horse-hoofe rays'd. The Muses into Nine  
Rape flying Birds: Pierides, to Pyes.  
The God's, by Typhon chas't, themselues disguise,  
Sad Cyane into a Fountaine flowes.  
Th' ill-nurtur'd Boy a spotted Stellion growes.  
Lou'd Arethusa thawes into a Spring.  
Ascalaphus an Owle. Light feathers wing  
The sweet-tongu'd Syrens, who on Waters mourne.

Sterne Lyncus Ceres to a Lynx doth turne.

## Book VI

Pallas an old-wife. Haughtie thoughts o're-throw  
Haemus and Rhodope; who Mountaines grow.  
The Pigmy, a Crane. Antigone becomes  
A Storke. A statue Cyneras intombs:  
His impious daughters, stones. In various shapes  
The Gods commit adulteries and rapes.  
Arachne, a Spider. Niobe yet drownes  
Her marble cheeks in teares. Unciuill Clownes  
Are curst to Frogs. From teares cleere Marsyas flowes.  
His iuory shoulder new-made Pelops showes.  
Progne, a Swallow; sign'd with murders staines.  
Sad Philomel to secret night complaines.  
Rage to a Lapwing turnes th' Odryasian king.  
Calais and Zetes natiue feathers wing.

## Book VII

Men, Dragons teeth produce. Wing'd Snakes their yeares  
By odors cast. A seire branch Oliues beares.  
Drops sprout to Flowres. Old Aeson young became.  
So Libers Nurses. An old Sheepe a Lambe.  
Cerambus flies. A Snake, a snake-like Stone.  
An Oxe, a Stag. Sad Mera barkes vnknowne.  
Hornes front the Coan dames. The Telchines  
All change. A Doue-turn'd Maid. The hard to please,  
Becomes a Swan. His mother Hyrie weepes  
Into a Lake. High-mounting Combe keepes  
Her son-sought Life. A King and Queene estrang'd  
To flightfull Foule. Cephisus Nephew chang'd  
Into a Seale. Eumelus daughter flies,  
Through tracelesse regions. Men from Mushrumps rise:  
Phinius and Periphas light wings assume.  
So Polyphemons neece. From Cerberus spume  
Springs Aconite. Iust Earth a graue denies  
To Scyrans bones; which now in rocks arise.  
Arne, a C[h]ough. Stout Myrmidons are borne  
Of toying Ants. The late reiected Morne  
Masks Cephalus. The Dog, that did pursue,



And Beast pursu'de; two marble Statues grew.

### Book VIII

Harmonious walls. Lewd Scylla now despaires;  
With Nisus, chang'd: the Lark the Hobby dares.  
Ariadnes Crowne a Constellation made.  
Th' inuentiue youth a Partridge; still afraid  
Of mounting. Meleagers Sisters mourne  
His Tragedie: to Fowle, so named, turne.  
Fiue water Nymphs the fiue Echinades  
Demonstrate. Perimele, neere to these,  
Becomes an Iland. Ioue and Hermes take  
The formes of men. A Citie turnd t' a Lake:  
A Cottage to a Temple. That good pare,  
Old Baucis and Philemon, changed are,  
At once to sacred Trees. In various shapes  
Blew Proteus sports. Oft. selfe-chang'd Metra scapes  
Scornd seruitude. The Streame of Calydon  
Forsakes his owne, and other shapes puts on.

### Book IX

A Serpent Achelous: now a Bull:  
His seuered Horne with plenty euer full.  
Lichas a Rock. Alcides sunke in flame,  
Ascends a God. The labour-helping Dame  
A Weesel. Lotis, flying lust, becomes  
A tree: the like sad Dryope intombs.  
Old Iolaus waxeth young agen.  
Callirrho'es Infants sodenly grow Men.  
Byblis a weeping Fountaine. Iphis, now  
A Boy, to Isis paies his maiden Vow.

### Book X

Feare turnes a man to Flint. Lethaea's blame  
Olenus beares: now stones; their shapes the same.  
Vext Cybele to Pine her Atys turnes.  
Sweete Cyparissus in a Cypresse mournes.  
Enamoured Ioue an Eagles wings displayes;  
And louely Ganymed to Heauen conuayes.

Slaine Hyacinthus sighes in his new Flowre.  
The cruell Sacrificers by the powre  
Of Venus turnd to Bulls. The Prostitute  
To Stones. Pygmalion weds the liuing fruite  
Of his rare Art. Erigone doth shine  
In heauen; conuerted to the Virgin Signe.  
Myrrha, a weeping Tree. Hippomenes  
And Atalanta, Lyons. Cyprides  
(Inform'd by Mentha's change) her Paramoure  
Turnes to a faire, but quickly fading flowre.

#### Book XI

A Serpent chang'd to Stone. Rough barks infold  
The cruell Bacchanals. To staruing Gold  
All turnes at Midas touch: He's bodie laues  
In cleare Pactolus, whose inriched waues  
Wash off his gold and gilt: an Asses eares  
His folly shame: the whispred Secret beares  
Like sounding-Reeds. Apollo, and the Guide  
Of sacred Seas, in humane shapes reside.  
Forc't Thetis varies formes. Daedalion  
T' a Falcon turn'd. A Wolfe congeal'd to Stone.  
Morpheus to mortals, Phobetor to Brutes,  
And Phantasus to shapes inanimate sutes.  
Transform'd Halcyone and Ceyx flye.  
So Aesacus, who vainely striues to dye.

#### Book XII

A Snake; a snake-like Stone. Cycnus, a Swan:  
Caenis the maid, now Caeneus and a man,  
Becomes a Fowle. Neleius varies shapes  
At last an Eagle; nor Alcides scapes.

#### Book XIII

Those purple flowres which Ajax name display,  
His blood produce. Inraged Hecuba  
Becomes a Bitch. From Memnons cinders rise  
Selfe slaughtering Fowle: a yeerely sacrifice.  
What euer Anius daughters handle, proues

Corne, wine, or oyle: themselues transform'd to Doues.  
From honour'd virgins ashes Sonnes ascend.  
Th' Ambracian Iudge a Stone. Light wings defend  
Molossus royall issue. Scylla groues  
A horrid Monster. Murderd Acis flowes  
With speedy streames. The kinde Nereides  
For Glaucus sue: inthron'd in sacred Seas.

#### Book XIV

Inchanted Scylla, hemb'd with horrid shapes,  
Becomes a Rock; Cercopeans turn'd to Apes.  
Sibylla weares t' a Voice. Vlysses men  
Transformed to Swine, are re-transformd agen.  
Picus a Bird: his Followers Beasts. Despaire  
Resolues sad-singing Canens into Aire.  
The Mates of Diomed vnreconcil'd  
Idalia turnes to Fowle. An Oliue wild  
Rude Apulus deciphers. Turnus burnes  
Aeneas ships: these Berecynthia turnes  
To Sea-nymphs; who Alcinöus ship with ioy  
Behold a Rock. The Troian flames destroy  
Besieged Ardea; from whose ashes springs  
A meager Herne, that beares them on her wings.  
Aeneas, Deifi'd. Vertumnus tries  
All shapes. Rhamnusia, for her cruelties,  
Congeales proud Anaxarete to Stone.  
Cold Fountaines boyle with heat. T' a heauenly throne  
Mars Romulus assumes. Hersilia  
Like grace receaues: who ioyne in equall sway.

#### Book XV

Black Stones conuert to White. Pythagoras  
In Ilium's lingring warre Euphorbus was.  
Of transmigrations, of the change of things,  
And strange effects, the learned Samian sings.  
Recur'd Hippolytus is deifide;  
Whom safer Age, and name of Virbius hide.  
Aegeria thawes into a Spring. From Earth  
Prophetick Tages takes his wondrous birth.  
A Speare a Tree. Graue Cippus vertues shun

The Crowne, his Hornes present. Apollo's Son  
Assumes a Serpents shape. The Soule of Warre,  
Great Caesar, slaine, becomes a Blazing Starre.

George Sandys

# The Mind Of The Frontispiece And Argument Of This Worke

FIRE, AIRE, EARTH, WATER, all the Opposites  
That stroue in Chaos, powrefull LOVE vnites;  
And from their Discord drew this Harmonie,  
Which smiles in Nature: who, with rausht eye,  
Affects his owne made Beauties. But, our Will,  
Desire, and Powres Irascible, the skill  
Of PALLAS orders; who the Mind attires  
With all Heroick Vertues: This aspires  
To Fame and Glorie; by her noble Guide  
Eternized, and well-nigh Deifi'd.  
But who forsake that faire Intelligence,  
To follow Passion, and voluptuous Sense;  
That shun the Path and Toyles of HERCVLES;  
Such, charm'd by CIRCE's luxurie, and ease,  
Themselues deforme: 'twixt whom, so great an ods;  
That these are held for Beasts, and those for Gods.

PHOEBVS APOLLO (sacred Poesy)  
Thus taught: for in these ancient Fables lie  
The mysteries of all Philosophie.  
Some Natures secrets shew; in some appeare  
Distempers staines; some teach vs how to beare  
Both Fortunes, bridling Ioy, Griefe, Hope, and Feare.  
These Pietie, Deuotion those excite;  
These prompt to Vertue, those from Vice affright;  
All fitly minging Profit with Delight.  
This Course our Poet steeres: and those that faile,  
By wandring stars, not by his Compasse, saile.

George Sandys

# The Works Of God

Great God! how manifold, how infinite  
Are all Thy works! with what a clear foresight  
Didst Thou create and multiply their birth!  
Thy riches fill the far-extended earth;  
The ample sea, in whose unfathom'd deep  
Innumerable sorts of creatures creep;  
Bright-scaled fishes in her entrails glide,  
And high-built ships upon her bosom ride;  
About whose sides the crooked dolphin plays,  
And monstrous whales huge spouts of water raise  
All on the land, or in the ocean bred,  
On Thee depend, in their due season fed;  
They gather what Thy bounteous hands bestow,  
And in the summer of Thy favour grow.  
When Thou contract'st Thy clouded brows, they mourn,  
And dying, to their former dust return;  
Again created by Thy quick'ning breath,  
To re-supply the massacres of death.  
No track of time His glory shall destroy;  
He in th' obedience of His works shall joy;  
But when their wild revolts His wrath provoke,  
Earth trembles, and the airy mountains smoke.  
I all my life will my Creator praise,  
And to His service dedicate my days.  
May He accept the music of my voice,  
While I with sacred harmony rejoice;  
Hence, ye profane, who in your sins delight;  
God shall extirp, and cast ye from His sight.  
My soul, bless thou this all-commanding King -  
You saints and angels, Hallelujah sing.

George Sandys

# Thou Who Art Enthroned Above!

Thou who art enthroned above!  
Thou by whom we live and move!  
Thee we bless; thy praise be sung,  
While an ear can hear a tongue.

O how sweet, how excellent  
'Tis with tongue and heart's consent,-  
Thankful hearts and joyful tongues,-  
To renown thy name in songs!

When the morning paints the skies,  
When the sparkling stars arise,  
Thy high favours to rehearse,  
Thy firm faith, in grateful verse.

Decks the spring with flowers the field?  
Harvest rich doth autumn yield?  
Giver of all good below!  
Lord! from Thee these blessings flow.

Who thy wonders can express?  
All thy thoughts are fathomless:  
Lord, Thou art most great, most high!  
God from all eternity!

George Sandys