

# The Debate

*by Mike Ferguson*

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*Unveiling of the Samuel Taylor Coleridge Memorial Statue vs The Accompanying Sermon,  
Ottery St Mary Parish Church ~ 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022*

**i**

The rain came and the wind blew  
and an indigo drape fell to  
unveil its bronze

**ii**

In that moment of celebration  
all was as one within us *all*  
which echoed from a past  
aeolian prayer of pure  
coalescence

**iii**

But what does not change  
is how a lecture can alter reality  
in the deception of its interpreting

**iv**

We hear it in The Sermon

*For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with  
the glory which shall be revealed in us  
~ Romans 8: 18-28*

and we consider: his rheumatism / his boils / his despair / his fevers / his  
melancholia / his treacherous bowels / his neuralgia / his creative drought / (his  
kidney stones, bladder cancer, hypochondria) / his constipation / his misery / his  
gloom / his addiction / his penury –

“O God save me from myself”

Coleridge unaware he was to be  
doctrinally saved

*For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why  
doth he yet hope for?*

v

More from The Sermon

*faith tempered in the crucible of suffering*

and elsewhere

*A great **poet**\* must have the ear of a wild Arab listening in the silent desert...*

~ from Goodreads re. STC; (\*substitute **theologian** – an imperative from The Sermon)

We see the orthodoxy / we see the symbol / we see the imagination / we see the link /  
we see the Anglicanism / we see the resource / we see the appropriation

We should see the mutuality / we should see the spirit / we should see the poet / we  
should hear the poet

Let us worship the poet

Worship the aeolian harp / worship the young hope / worship the strength / worship  
the precocity

Worship this reading / worship *this* interpretation

vi

Standing on his stone  
beneath the church tower's bells  
it can be *only* music  
and poetry he hears

as for all of us to bear witness