

1633

GO, AND CATCH A FALLING STAR

John Donne

Donne, John (1572-1631) - First and greatest of the English metaphysical poets. Donne's work was popular upon its initial (posthumous) publication, but it was not until the early 20th century that he was first considered a major poet. His poems are admired for their wit, beauty, and perception. Song: Go and Catch a Falling Star (1633) - Presents a number of impossible feats which are easier than finding a woman "true, and fair." Opening lines: Go and catch a falling star, / Get with child a mandrake root, ...

GO, AND CATCH A FALLING STAR

Go, and catch a falling star, Get with child a mandrake root, Tell me, where all past years are, Or who cleft the Devil's foot, Teach me to hear mermaids singing, Or to keep off envy's stinging, And find What wind Serves to advance an honest mind.

If thou be'est born to strange sights, Things invisible to see, Ride ten thousand days and nights, Till age snow white hairs on thee, Thou, when thou return'st, wilt tell me All strange wonders that befell thee, And swear No where Lives a woman true, and fair.

If thou find'st one, let me know, Such pilgrimage were sweet.

Yet do not, I would not go, Though at next door we might meet, Though she were true, when you met her, And last, till you write your letter, Yet she Will be False, ere I come, to two, or three.

THE END