

And doomed to die for witness of my word?
Wherein is Bruno heretic? What truth
Have ye which I hold not, and even more?
Yea, all that is contained within the Creeds
And Councils of the Holy Catholic Church,
Giordano holds. But faith transcends both creed
And council, is the evidence of things
Not seen. Is faith the journey or the road?
Faith is the pilgrim with a scrip and staff,
Taking all roads at pleasure. Is the Church
Weak as to fabric, that the stake must stand
Forever as the symbol of her strength?
Dogma that must be buttressed by the ban
Of excommunication is not truth!
Who hates in the defence of what he holds,
Or drops one bitter word against the name
Of his antagonist can not be true:
The calm of Christ before Calaphas;
Paul's manner with the Areopagus;
All martyred love: bear witness to my word.

And so ye have condemned me! Venice gives
My body unto Rome—this night, perchance,
Or on the morrow, I must take the road
Of martyrdom to Rome—how many more
Must travel that same road, because their faith
Is overmuch! But old skins ever fail
New wine, and from the Branch—Copernicus—
Thought-clusters hang, which from the press of
Time