

## Puzzle from Paradise

A curious knot God made in paradise:  
to eat the fruit from the tree  
of knowledge of good and evil,  
and suffer labor and banishment,

or to abstain forever and relax  
our sinless, flabby bodies that need only  
to refuel our incurious brains  
and futile, opposable thumbs.

We would assign names to beasts  
and flowers and swat at legal trees'  
low-hanging benign fruits  
and sing the praise of God.

Adam and Eve's curiosity  
is our birthright but also our sin,  
both inconvenient in the Christian  
suburbs of Eden.

Some say their blunder  
could be atoned for only  
by Christ's crucifixion  
and spectacular resurrection.

Skillful Christians learn to pray,  
to pay penance to the Son  
who bled for our redemption  
from our Need to Know natures.

We seek but do not find.  
We desire but never acquire.  
If cruelty has a human heart  
then it has God's DNA:  
proper punishment for audacious souls.

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