

PIED BEAUTY

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Glory be to God for dappled things -

For skies of couple - colour as a brinded cow;

For rose - moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;

Fresh - firecoal chestnut - falls; finches' wings;

Landscape plotted and pierced - fold, fallow, and plough;

And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;

Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how ?)

With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;

He fathers - forth whose beauty is past change;

Praise him.

Gerald Manley Hopkins (1844 - 1889)

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