

# Brief Investigations Metaphysical poetry:

Herbert: God's love and mercy: *Discipline*, *Love II*, *Prayer I*

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### *Discipline*

#### ➤ Read through *Discipline*

- What does 'I aspire/ To a full consent' mean?
- What do you think 'Though man frailties hath,/Thou art God' means?

#### ➤ Compare *Discipline* to *Love II*

- What similarities do you note?
- What differences?

### *Love II*

#### ➤ Read Herbert's *Love II*

- Does the poet's reluctance surprise you in the light of other poems?

- Is he not sure of God's forgiveness?

#### ➤ How does Herbert achieve both a sense of tension, and yet a resolution to his poem?

### *Prayer I*

#### ➤ Read Herbert's *Prayer I*

- Is there any sense of its being a sonnet?
- Why or why not?
- Try to work out 'The six days'

world-transposing in an hour'.

#### ➤ Where does the essence of Herbert's excitement about prayer lie?