

Soul

- O who shall, from this Dungeon, raise  
A Soul inslav'd so many ways?  
With bolts of Bones, that fetter'd stands  
In Feet; and manacled in Hands.  
(5) Here blinded with an Eye; and there,  
Deaf with the drumming of an Ear.  
A Soul hung up, as 'twere, in Chains  
Of Nerves, and Arteries, and Veins.  
Tortur'd, besides each other part,  
(10) In a vain Head, and double Heart.

Body

- O who shall me deliver whole,  
From bonds of this Tyrannic Soul?  
Which, stretcht upright, impales me so,  
That mine own Precipice I go;  
(15) And warms and moves this needless Frame:  
(A Fever could but do the same.)  
And, wanting where its spite to try,  
Has made me live to let me die.  
A Body that could never rest,  
(20) Since this ill Spirit it possest.

Soul

- What Magic could me thus confine  
Within another's Grief to pine?  
Where whatsoever it complain,  
I feel, that cannot feel, the pain.  
(25) And all my care its self employs,  
That to preserve, which me destroys:  
Constrain'd not only to endure  
Diseases, but what's worse, the Cure:  
And ready oft the Port to gain,  
(30) Am Shipwrackt into Health again.

Body

- But Physic\* yet could never reach  
The Maladies thou me dost teach;  
Whom the first Cramp of Hope dost tear:  
And then the Palsy shakes of Fear.  
(35) The Pestilence of Love does heat:  
Or Hatred's hidden Ulcer eat.  
Joy's cheerful Madness does perplex:  
Or Sorrow's other Madness vex.  
Which Knowledge forces me to know,  
(40) And Memory will not forgo.  
What but a Soul could have the wit  
To build me up for Sin so fit?  
So Architects do square and hew,  
Green Trees that in the Forest grew.

\*Physic: medicine

1. What is the importance of the headings (Soul and Body)? Specifically, what do they indicate?
2. Describe the relationship between the body and the soul?
3. What literary devices are you able to identify in the first stanza?
4. What is the meaning of lines 5-6's eye that can blind and ear that can deafen?
5. In the context of the first stanza, what desire is being expressed in lines 1-2?
6. What is the meaning of lines 13-14?
7. What does line 15 suggest about the nature of the soul?
8. What question is posed in lines 21-22?
9. What is the meaning of lines 25-26?
10. What is the figurative meaning of the literal term "Port" in line 29?
11. What is the purpose of the metaphors in lines 31-36?
12. Notice the final four lines that extend the length of the last stanza; what is their purpose?
13. Identify lines which express the cleverness of the body in its impingement on the soul?