

John Donne on Maps and the Microcosm: A Sampler

Obsequies to the Lord Harrington

Fair soul, which wast, not only, as all souls be,
 Then when thou wast infused, harmony,
 But didst continue so; and now dost bear
 A part in God's great organ, this whole Sphere:
 If looking up to God; or down to us,
 Thou find that any way is pervious,
 Twixt heav'n and earth, and that man's actions do
 Come to your knowledge, and affections too,
 See, and with joy, me to that good degree
 Of goodness grown, that I can study thee,
 And, by these meditations refin'd,
 Can unapparel and enlarge my mind,
 And so can make by this soft ecstasy,
 This place a map of heav'n, myself of thee.



A Valediction: Of Weeping

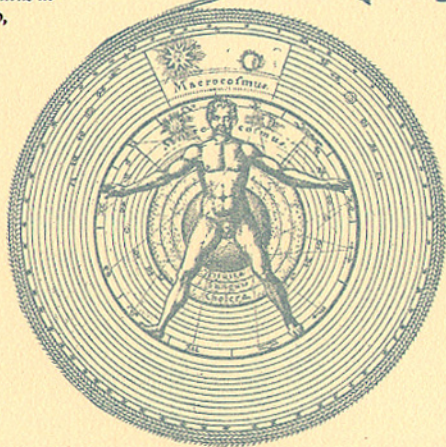
On a round ball
 A workman that hath copies by, can lay
 An Europe, Afrique, and an Asia,
 And quickly make that, which was nothing, All,
 So doth each teare,
 Which thee doth weare,
 A globe, yea world by that impression grow,
 Till thy teares mixt with mine doe overflow
 This world, by waters sent from thee, my heaven dissolved so.

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Holy Sonnet V

I am a little world made cunningly
 Of Elements, and an Angelic sprite,
 But black sin hath betray'd to endless night
 My world's both parts, and, oh, both parts must die.



The Good Morrow

And now good morrow to our waking souls,
 Which watch not one another out of fear;
 For love all love of other sights controls,
 And makes one little room an everywhere.
 Let sea discoverers to new worlds have gone,
 Let maps to other, worlds on worlds have shown,
 Let us possess one world, each hath one, and is one.
 My face in thine eye, thine in mine appears,
 And true plain hearts do in the faces rest;
 Where can we find two better hemispheres
 Without sharp North, without declining West?

Devotions

It is too little to call man a little world; except God, Man is a diminutive to nothing. Man consists of more pieces, more parts, then the world; then the world doeth, may then the world is. And if those pieces were extended, and stretched out in Man, as they are in the world, Man would be the gyant, and the world the dwarfe, the world but the map, and the Man the world.