Messiah in Rags

the devil is always well-dressed

and the messiah in rags

the former in the neat and well-fitted

conceits of the age

and the latter in the beggar’s kit

dirty with the long story of suffering.

the final history will be written

not with blood or tears

but with the smudgeless ink

of a diamond-tipped pen

on the golden leaves

of a book no one will ever be able to read