

SONG: Lessons 1

TOM tries to rationalize his life - the dichotomy between his instincts and the results of his following them.

TOM (sung)

When God created man
And gave him full dominion
Over all within his span
To rule by whim or plan
And name by his opinion,
God levied an injunction
On peel and stem and fruit,
And Adam got the boot.
That's what teacher said,
That's what teacher...

Told
Me of the Tree of Knowledge,
Satan, and his lies.
Still I love the shade in summer,
Still love apple pies.
A tower built for leaning on
Or climbing to the skies.
He taught me of the sin,
The danger it would bring,
And, yes, I've bitten in,
And, no, I haven't learned a thing.

But nature is ample;
The world is kind.
An excellent example,
More in the heart than mind.
Family and fellows, all happily inclined.
And if some orchards lack
A well-proffered snack,
Well, apples grow back.
Each to his purpose designed.

Parson Square is a great philosopher, a master of Plato and Aristotle, whom I gather were rather important fellows. Sometimes Square is a Platonist, sometimes an Aristotelian, whichever is most convenient for his present argument. Reverend Thwackum has a more Biblical bent. For instance, he is a most robust proponent of the Commandments. So much so, in fact, that he has added a few dozen of his own invention to the original ten. Despite their many differences, however, these gentlemen find they have much in common when it comes to despising Tom Jones.

When man debased his soul
By disobedient chewing,
Adam tallied up the toll-
The tasty treat he stole,

The source of his undoing-
And came to this conclusion:
That man is black with sin.
And so it's always been.
Teacher said beware,
Said I have a...

Flair

For Adam's cardinal vices:
Vanity and pride.
But if some natural knack should surface,
Shall it be denied?
And would it not be wrong to hide it,
Locked up here inside?
It seems to lack in thrift,
And such a dreary goal,
To cover up one's gift
And merely - What? - to save one's soul.

For nature is ample;
The world is kind.
An excellent example,
More in the heart than mind.
Family and fellows, all happily inclined.
And if I can cure ill
With talent or skill,
I must and I will.
Each to his purpose designed.