

Part one

God speaking to Edinburgh-based visionary Rachel Brown (writing in her spiritual journal in 1738/9), or modern song?

1. I have made you feel your own weakness, that you may depend on me alone for strength
2. What can I deny you, now when I have let you into my secrets?
3. Come with me, my love, to the sea, the sea of love
4. I swam through a hell of blood and sufferings for you
5. If you're lost, you can look and you will find me
6. See that you do not break me with your whorish heart
7. Be my deer, I'll be your meadow
8. You who wish to conquer pain, you must learn, learn to serve me well.

Part two

The Devil speaking in 17th-century pamphlets/diaries, or modern song?

1. You shall have all that your heart can wish, or tongue can crave
2. Seeds I plant will grow, one day you will see, and dare to come down to me
3. You are ... in my hands and power ... I may give you leave to wriggle a while
4. ...though you be burning hot at present ... I shall have you cold before long
5. Use all your well-learned politesse, or I'll lay your soul to waste
6. I knew your precious life and I know your death, I squeeze the love out of your soul
7. You shall suddenly be surprised by me, you are in captivity to me, and I shall have possession of you
8. I'll hug you, I'll delight you

Answers

Part 1:

- 1. Rachel Brown*
- 2. Rachel Brown*
- 3. Cat Power, Sea of Love*
- 4. Rachel Brown*
- 5. Cyndi Lauper, Time after Time*
- 6. Rachel Brown*
- 7. Nahko and Medicine for the People, Tus Pies*
- 8. Leonard Cohen, Avalanche*

Part 2:

- 1. The young-mans conquest over the powers of darkness (1684)*
- 2. Metallica, Devil's Dance*
- 3. Journal of Richard Norwood, 1639-40*
- 4. John Bunyan, Grace Abounding (1666)*
- 5. Rolling Stones, Sympathy for the Devil*
- 6. Alice Cooper, Devil's Food*
- 7) Robert Smith, Satans temptation, and Gods preservation (1685)*
- 8) The young-mans conquest over the powers of darkness (1684)*

Note: I modernised spelling and changed 'thee/thou/thy' to 'you/your'.

Rachel Brown is not typical, but her case exemplifies how intense religious visionaries' relationships with God might be.