

## ATHEISM'S AFTERLIFE

*(The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." – Psalm 14:1)*

On earth, he taught that God is not;  
In hell, he claims that God is cruel. . . .  
Such reasoning is so much rot  
Upon the lips of either fool.

In life, he rendered God no praise;  
In death, he wails a ceaseless curse,  
With no more wish to change his ways  
Than when they grew from bad to worse.

In freedom, self was on the throne;  
In chains, free-thinking disappears,  
For never was his mind his own  
By joining thoughts to demons' jeers.

In hope, he knew the chance to change;  
Despair makes room for no remorse—  
Repentance now would seem too strange  
For doubts he forged by willful force.

In light, life's gifts wooed his belief;  
In darkness, flames urge his regret. . . .  
If grace still offered him relief,  
Would he undo the choices set?

— *David L. Hatton, 3/24,/2015*