

APPENDIX #5A  
TO THE PROPAEDEUTICS FOR  
“PHILOSOPHY OF PURE REASON  
SUB SPECIE AETERNITATIS.”

THE CLASSICAL  
EXAMPLE OF CYNICAL  
REASONING.

The most complete example of the deepest Laconical Cynical mode of thinking in poetic form was done by the *jailbird* Francois Villon:

## Ballad

(for the Contest at Blois)

I die of thirst beside the fountain,  
as hot as fire, trembling tooth on tooth;  
in my own country I'm in far-off land;  
beside a fire I shiver, all aflame;  
as naked as a warm, yet richly dressed in furs;  
I laugh through tears, and wait without a hope;  
my only comfort is in sad despair;  
I rejoice and have no pleasure;  
I am strong, but have no force or power,  
well received, rebuffed by all.

Nothing's sure save what is yet uncertain,  
nor more obscure than what is evident;  
I have no doubts save when I'm positive;  
in sudden accident is knowledge based;  
I win all and yet remain the loser;  
at break of day I say, "Goodnight";  
when I lie down I have great fear of falling;  
I'm quite well off and yet don't have a penny;  
I always inheritance and yet am no man's heir'  
well received, rebuffed by all.

I'm never careful, but I make all efforts  
to acquire wealth though I have none to claim;  
who to me is nicest most annoys me;  
who speaks the truth tells me most lies;  
my friend is he who leads me to believe  
white swan is nothing but black crow;  
he who harms me does his best to help;  
lies, truth are now the same to me;  
I remember all, but can conceive of nothing,  
well received, rebuffed by all.

Most clement prince, may you be pleased to know  
that much I understand, but have no sense of reason;  
I'm strongly partisan and yet agree with all.  
What can I do? What? Redeem my things in pawn,  
well received, rebuffed by all.