

- Sept 1988: 'Why Should We Believe It?'  
by Brian Davies OP  
*Vice-Regent of Studies in the English Dominican Province; Reviews Editor of 'New Blackfriars'. Blackfriars, Oxford, OX1 3LY*  
Vol 69 No. 819, pp.360—368.
- October 1988: 'The Philosophers and the China Shop: a reply to Brian Davies'  
by Eamon Duffy  
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Vol 69 No. 820, pp. 447—452.
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## Of Conkers and Kites

Nicholas Donnelly

Once my prayers  
were like sticks thrown up,  
high up, to knock conkers down.  
Seen from below  
God was the upmost dark seed,  
my aching arms never reached.  
In morning's light,  
gone was the prized onecer,  
lost, a secret in hurricane.  
The green shell,  
my Bible, God's shape hinting;  
strong, the dark wood smell.  
At a loss,  
God's measure, an empty hollow,  
I ran from the stark tree.

Now my prayer  
is like running a kite out,  
let loose, into open sky.  
The pay-out a struggle  
until tightening,  
caught up in God's rise.  
All my body braced,  
to hold down the prayer,  
so alive in the slip wind.  
As sudden dropped,  
God's face turned away;  
left falling in the lee.  
A hard art, childhood;  
joy and sorrow,  
playing God's high summer.