

# The Proton and Electron

A proton knew himself the kingly one:

"The electron must My orbit's will obey;"

The electron knew that this could not be done,

And loudly spoke the proton's will to sway.

The proton willed that all like him would be,

The electron fought, for positive he's not:

"Why can't the proton negatively see,

And recognize the charge that I have got?"

Then God spoke up, whose orbits He had made,

To fly contrary to each others way;

Resisting one another yet He bade,

Them work together to their great dismay.

"The positive is always meant to be,

And negative as well, as day has night;

You can repel and yet each one stay free;

Each one I made, so each of you is right.

Where charges differ, each for power vies;

Your orbits spin to form a greater sum,  
In your strife an unknown wonder lies,  
From which atomic mysteries may come.

If each of you were only protons made,  
And always in your charges did agree,  
Your powers sadly then would only fade,  
And no atomic worlds could ever be.

The windmill would its blades need not to turn,  
A lamp would be a useless ornament,  
No fires kindled sparks would ever burn,  
When all's the same, no energy is spent.

How sad if each your own way only saw,  
And could not with the other form a field,  
Contrary force is central to my law,  
That tension's fighting might new forces yield.

I wish for you as such, the death of each,  
To be yourself and equally accept,  
That in repelling you would see no breach,

And in excelling fully be adept.

They rose anew to streak their orbits more,  
And each one knew his own predestined space,  
Repelling, but rejoicing as they soar,  
To greater glory swiftly do they race.

Brian Coatney 1992 (revised 2001)