PHILOSOPHICAL LIMERICKS

Said Plato: 'The things that we feel
Are not ontologically real,
But just the excrecence
Of numinous essence
Our senses can never reveal.'

Basil Ransome-Davies

The cryptic philosopher, Kant,
Announced: 'I most certainly shan't
In my Prolegomena
Allow that phenomena
Are anything but what they aren't.'

E.F.C.

Cried the maid: 'You must marry me Hume!'
A statement that made David fume.
He said: 'In cause and effect,
There is a defect;
That it's mine you can only assume.'

E.F.C.

There was a young student called Fred,
Who was questioned on Descartes and said:
'It's perfectly clear
That I'm not really here,
For I haven't a thought in my head.'

V.R.Ormerod

There once was a young man who said: 'God
Must think it exceedingly odd
If he finds that this tree
Continues to be,
When there's no-one about in the Quad.'

Ronald Knox

[The Reply]

Dear Sir, Your astonishment's odd:
I am always about in the Quad.
And that's why the tree
Will continue to be,
Since observed by Yours faithfully, God.

Anon

There once was a man who said: 'Ayer
Has answered the atheist's prayer,
For a Hell one can't verify
Surely can't terrify -
At least till you know you are there.'

Anon

There once was a man who said 'Damn!
It is borne in upon me I am
An engine that moves
In predestinate grooves:
I'm not even a bus, I'm a tram.'

M.E.Hare

The philosopher Berkeley once said
In the dark to a maid in his bed:
'No perception, my dear,
Means I'm not really here,
But only a thought in your head.'

P.W.R.Foot

Said Wittgenstein: 'Don't be misled!
What can be shewn, cannot be said.'
He aimed to be sensible,
Not incomprehensible,
But wrote the Tractatus instead.

Peter Alexander

Heraclitus gave splendid advice:
Keep your boots well away from thin ice;
It's lovely for ducks,
But you're in the flux,
And won't drown in the same river twice.

Peter Gibson

Said shopkeeper William of Occam,
'Multiverses? No! No! I don't stock 'em!
And if you ever get
Hold of Hugh Everett -
Or Dave Deutsch - up in prison please lock 'em!'

David Tompsett

To fools a being can be taught
Than which none greater can be thought;
Well, Anselm said that,
But he was a prat -
Sweet nothings can only make naught.

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The nominalist William of Ockham
Said: 'Changing my name would sure shock 'em,
So using my Razor
(Or maybe a laser)
I'll cut it to just Will of Ock - hm?'

Peter Gibson