

Edward Taylor's "Huswifery" original

Make me, O Lord, Thy spinning-wheel complete.  
Thy holy word my distaff make for me.  
Make mine affections Thy swift flyers neat  
And make my soul Thy holy spool to be.  
My conversation make to be Thy reel  
And reel thy yarn thereon spun of Thy wheel.

Make me Thy loom then, knit therein this twine:  
And make Thy Holy Spirit, Lord, wind quills:  
Then weave the web Thyself. Thy yarn is fine.  
Thine ordinances make my fulling-mills.  
Then dye the same in heavenly colors choice,  
All pinked with varnished flowers of paradise.

Then clothe therewith mine understanding, will,  
Affections, judgment, conscience, memory,  
My words and actions, that their shine may fill  
My ways with glory and Thee glorify.  
Then mine apparel shall display before Ye  
That I am clothed in holy robes for glory.

Literal translation of poem

Lord, please make me Your spinning wheel  
Make the Bible the distaff of the spinning wheel  
Make my emotions the part of the spinning wheel  
that twists the fibers to make the yarn strong.  
Make my soul and my conversation the spool/reel  
that You wrap the yarn around.

Now, make me Your loom and weave a cloth of the  
yarn You've spun.  
Make Your Holy Spirit wind the yarn around the  
spool and then weave the cloth Yourself. The yarn  
You make from me can only be weak because of my  
sinful human nature, so make the cloth stronger by  
using Your laws as fulling-mills (a machine that  
thickens cloth into felt—a difficult cloth to rip).  
Then color the cloth with any color that pleases You  
and make the cloth shiny and lacy with heavenly  
flowers (not your typical Puritan day-wear).

Now, take the cloth and make clothes to cover my  
soul so that on earth I can act in a way that will bring  
glory to You.  
Then, through Your work in me, I can stand before  
You ready to enter heaven.

Interpretative translation of poem

Lord, please use me for Your work (of sanctification)  
Let the Bible support my efforts to be a good  
Christian  
Let my emotions be a help, not a hindrance, to your  
work in me  
Please cover the imperfection (sin) of my soul with  
Your Will for me

Now, let me use the spiritual gifts you give me to do  
good works. I am only a weak human; so, please  
help me to obey Your laws in order to make me  
stronger. Give me any purpose; ask me to do  
anything with my life, for doing Your Will always  
produces a beautiful work.

God, the only way that I can be made worthy of  
heaven, is to have you recreate me (sanctify me) in  
Your Will, covering the sin of my human nature. I  
know through Your Word and Your Holy Mercy that  
You want to do this for me, Your Child. May it bring  
you all glory.