

De Itinere Ionathani  
Interpretationi Comprehensiva  
Iuris<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Translation: Concerning Jonathan's Journey for a Comprehensive Definition/Meaning of (the) Law. The **unnecessary** use of Latin is just a parody of a bad "legalese" tendency.

One day one Jonathan Docket,

Read "*Ignorantia Iuris Nocet*"<sup>2</sup>.

So off he set out to town,

To see how much knowledge of Law he could get.

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<sup>2</sup> A Roman maxim. Translated as "Ignorance of the Law is Harmful".

School was the first place he saw.

Inviting with its open doors.

So up to a fellow he went,

And said “tell me what is the Law”.

The student spat all she had crammed,  
And placed *Inleiding*<sup>3</sup> in Jonathan's hand.  
Now more confused than before,  
A court was the next place he saw.

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<sup>3</sup> *Inleiding tot de Hollandsche Rechtsgeleerdheid* is Hugo De Groot's masterpiece on the principles of Roman-Dutch Law. Definitive at one point, it's now somewhat dated (legislation, precedents and abrogation through disuse).

So up to the Justice he ran,

And posed his question to this im-posing man.

- “Law<sup>4</sup> is a tool for social reform!”

Placing the Constitution<sup>5</sup> in Jonathan’s hand.

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<sup>4</sup> Note, Law (not **the** Law) refers to an abstract concept.

<sup>5</sup> The Constitution of South Africa

Jonathan Docket was thoroughly perplexed,

And found a business man next.

Jonathan asked “what is the law?”

- “Go ask my attorney, I couldn’t know less”

The lawyer was busy so Jonathan waited,  
His fervour still unabated.  
The secretary told him that he wouldn't be seen,  
For he hadn't paid the minimum fee!

Jonathan's pockets were shallow.

So he went back to his abode.

As for the definition of Law,

Jonathan decided that it was unknown.