

Poems of Comfort

When I Am Gone

When I am gone, release me, let me go
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be thankful for our many beautiful years.
I gave to you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I travel on alone.
So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It is only for a time that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on,
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart you'll hear,
All my love around you soft and clear.
And then, When you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile, and say...
"Welcome Home"

To Laugh Often and Much

"To laugh often and much;
to win the respect of intelligent people
and the affection of children;
to earn the appreciation of honest critics
and endure the betrayal of false friends;
to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others;
to leave the world a bit better
whether by healthy child, a garden patch,
or a redeemed social condition;
to know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded"
-Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Love Lives On

Those we love remain with us
for love itself lives on,
And cherished memories never fade
Because a love one's gone. . .
Those we love can never be
more than a thought apart
For as long as there is memory,
They'll live on in the heart.

You Are Not Forgotten

You are not forgotten, loved one
Nor will you ever be,
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee.
We miss you now, our hearts are sore
As time goes by we'll miss you more.
Your loving smile, your gentle face,
No one can fill your vacant place.

At the Rising of the Sun

At the rising of the sun
and it's going down,
WE REMEMBER THEM.
At the blowing of the wind
and in the chill of winter,
WE REMEMBER THEM.
In the opening of the buds
and in the rebirth of the spring,
WE REMEMBER THEM.
At the blueness of the skies
and in the warmth of summer,
WE REMEMBER THEM.
At the rustling of the leaves
and the beauty of autumn,
WE REMEMBER THEM.
As long as we live, they too will live;
for they are now a part of us,
As we remember them.

When I Must Leave You

When I must leave you for a little while
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
live on and do all things the same;
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you
And hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die.
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

Keepsakes of the Heart

A collection of your memories,
Precious times enjoyed together;
Keepsakes of the heart
That remain with us forever.

A Little While

Fill not your heart with pain and sorrow,
But remember me in every tomorrow...
Remember the joy, the laughter, the smiles,
I've only gone to rest a little while.
Although my leaving causes pain and grief
My going has eased my hurt
And given me relief.
So dry your eyes and remember me,
Not as I am now, but as I used to be.
Because I will remember you all
And look on with a smile.
Understand in your hearts
I've only gone to rest a little while.

Beautiful Spirit

A beautiful spirit endures
Through many transformations
And carries with it a patient endurance
A perseverance of the soul
That stands the test of time
The colors of our lives do not fade
But grow brighter with
every changing season

Fairways of Glory

A dedication to the endless pursuit
of the perfect game
Fond memories of the challenges
Of the greens and trials of its traps
And now, the last putt has dropped into the cup of life
And the light of the day has faded
Lord, it is now on your fairways of glory
That the game will continue to be played.

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one
I'd like to leave an afterglow
Of smiles when life is done
I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright and sunny days
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
To dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave
When life is done

Goodbye Is Not Forever

When you lived your life for others
and you loved without condition
When you made so many laugh
and your smile won't be forgotten
When you left behind an empty place
that no one else can fill
When the friendships that you shared
long to be renewed
When you built your life on hope
and fulfilled it every day
The footprints that you left behind
will bring us face to face
So, goodbye is not forever,
You're only steps away.

Christian Poems

Another Leaf Has Fallen

Another leaf has fallen,
another soul has gone.
But still we have God's promises,
in every robin's song,
For He's in His Heaven,
and though He takes away,
He always leaves to mortals,
the bright sun's kindly ray.
He leaves the fragrant blossoms,
and lovely forests green.
And gives us new found comfort,
when we on Him will lean.

God Has Created Me

God has created me to do him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me which
He has not committed to another.
I have my mission — I may never know it in this life,
but I shall be told it in the next.
I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection, between persons.
He has not created me for naught.
I shall do his work, I shall be an angel of peace,
a preacher of truth in my own pace while not intending it —
If I do but keep His Commandments.
Therefore I will trust him.
Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;
in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;
if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.
He does nothing in vain.
HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS ABOUT.
He may take away my friends.
He may throw me among strangers.
He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink,
hide my future from me —
STILL HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS ABOUT.

-Henry Cardinal Newman

God Hath Not Promised

God hath not promised
Skies always blue.
Flowers strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.
But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way.
Grace for the trials
help from above,
Unfailing sympathy
Undying love.

If Death Should Beckon

If Death should beckon me
with outstretched hand
and whisper softly
of "An Unknown Land";
I shall not be afraid to go.
For though the path I do not know,
I will take Death's Hand without fear,
for He who safely brought me here
will also take me safely back
And though in many things I lack,
He will not let me go alone
into the "Valley That's Unknown"...
So I reach out and take Death's Hand
and journey to the "Promised Land".

God's Garden

God looked around the garden,
And found an empty space.
He looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
For He only takes the best.
He knew that you were weary,
and He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
be well on earth again.
He saw the roads were getting rough,
and the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids,
and whispered peace be thine.

The Loom of Time

Man's life is laid in the loom of time
To a pattern he does not see,
While the weavers work and the shuttles fly
Till the dawn of eternity.
Some shuttles are filled with silver threads
And some with threads of gold,
While often but the darker hues
Are all that they may hold.
But the weaver watches with skillful eye
Each shuttle fly to and fro,
And sees the pattern so deftly wrought
As the loom moves sure and slow.
God surely planned the pattern:
Each thread, the dark and fair,
Is chosen by His master skill
And placed in the web with care.
He only knows its beauty,
And guides the shuttles which hold
The threads so unattractive,
As well as the threads of gold.
Not till each loom is silent,
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God reveal the pattern
And explain the reason why
The dark threads were as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
For the pattern which He planned.

Togetherness

Death is nothing at all
I have only slipped away
Into the next room.
Whatever we were to each other,
That we are still.
Call me by my old familiar name,
Speak to me in the way
which you always used to.
Laugh as we always laughed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be the household word
That it always was.
Let it be spoken without effort.
Life means all that it ever was:
There is absolutely unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of your mind
because I am out of your sight?
I am waiting for you, for an interval,
Somewhere very near
just around the corner.
All is well.
Nothing is past; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be
As it was before – only better,
Infinitely happier and forever
–We will all be one together

Carried by the Wind

A uniqueness that could only come
from a Creator's touch,
A life lived with simplicity of purpose
and unyielding strength,
From moment to moment,
All of life's needs were met with a peace
that surpasses all understanding,
And now to the heavens,
A life rises up like a leaf carried by the wind.

If Tears Could Build a Stairway

If tears could build a stairway,
and memories a lane,
I'd walk right up to heaven and
bring you home again.

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of the day
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life has been full, I've savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me free!

The Chain

We knew little that morning
That God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly.
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
That day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide:
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one
The chain will link again.

An Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
And the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it: "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.

The Lord replied, my precious, precious child, I Love you and I would never leave you! During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.

Safely Home

I am home in Heaven dear ones;
Oh, so happy and bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever.
Safely home in Heaven at last.
There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand,
Do it now, while life remaineth—
You shall rest in Jesus' land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh the joy to see you come!

Tomorrow

When tomorrow starts without me,
please try to understand,
That Jesus came and called my name
and took me by the hand.
And when I walked through heaven's gates,
I felt so much at home.
When God looked down and smiled at me,
from His golden throne.
He said, "This is eternity
and all I've promised you.
Today your life on earth is past
and here it starts anew.
I promise no tomorrows,
but today will always last,
And since each day's the same,
there's no longing for the past.
You have been faithful,
so trusting and true,
Though there were times you did
some things you knew you shouldn't do.
But you have been forgiven,
and now at last you're free,
So won't you take my hand
and share My life with me?"
So when tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here in your heart.

I Said a Prayer For You Today

I said a prayer for you today,
and know God must have heard.
I felt the answer in my heart,
although He spoke no word!
I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind),
I asked Him to send treasures of
a far more lasting kind!
I asked that He'd be near you,
at the start of each new day.
To grant you health and blessings,
for friends to share your way!
I asked for happiness for you,
in all things great and small,
But it was for His loving care,
I prayed the most of all!

Dad

We'll Always Remember

We'll always Remember
That special smile
That caring heart
That warm embrace
You always gave us.
You being there.
For mom and us.
Through good and bad times
No matter what.
We'll always remember
You dad because
There'll never be anyone
to replace you in our hearts.
And the love we will always have for you.

Dad

He never said, "I love you,"
in words I can recall.
He felt it not the manly thing to do.
Yet, deep within my heart
I know that love was really there.
His eyes, his touch, the things he did
all told me that it's true.
And now it's time to say, "Goodbye,"
to Father and to friend.
Sweet memories remain of him,
ones that will not end.

There's a Legend of a Teardrop

There's a legend of a teardrop that rolled down a cheek one day,
and it fell upon a tombstone where a family had gone to pray.
And it sparkled like a diamond as it ventured toward the sod,
and its brilliance was so startling that it caught the eye of God.
That teardrop, born of sorrow for a mother who had died,
was shed in grief and sadness by her children who had cried.
But it had a special meaning to the Father up above,
for that teardrop was just loaded with all her children's love.
In its loving sparkling brilliance God recalled the teardrop home,
and he showed the mother, who no more on earth would roam.
Then God took that brilliant teardrop shed in love on earth afar,
and he placed it in the heavens with His brightest morning star.
So when you look into the heavens where ten million stars are spread,
you may see a lovely teardrop that in sorrow you have shed.

Mother

Mother: How I Will Miss You

From the moment I was conceived, she prayed for me.
When I was born, she welcomed me.
Through my childhood years she trained me.
With each success, she applauded me,
In the midst of my failures, she believed in me.
I have known her love, Benefited from her sacrifices,
Received her forgiveness, How I will miss her!

Our Departed Mother

She always leaned to watch for us
Anxious if we were late
In winter, by the window,
In summer by the gate,
And though we mocked her tenderly,
Who had such foolish care,
The long way home would seem more safe,
Because she waited there.
Her thoughts were all so full of us,
She never could forget,
And so I think that where she is,
She must be waiting yet.
Waiting, till we come to her,
Anxious if we are late,
Watching from heaven's window
Leaning from heaven's gate.

A Tribute To Mom...

We couldn't begin
To count the times
She tolerated our moods,
Consoled our heartbreaks
And disappointments,
Endured our ups and downs,
Listened to words confused by tears
And just simply understood
For no other reason
Than because she loved us.

The years hold precious memories,
But most of all they hold growth.
In a way, we grew up together...

Mom is our definition of a special person...
Fantastic... Exceptional...
Unique... Enduring!
She filled our lives with happiness
And sweet feelings that we will
Carry in our hearts forever.

Her Love

Bring comfort to my heart I pray,
I've lost a dear, dear friend.
She understood and loved me,
With a love that will not end.
I'll carry it within me,
And give it all away.
To each of my own children,
As I live with them each day.
And when my years have been fulfilled,
My time on earth is gone,
The love she richly gave to me,
Will still be living on.

Mama

Her heartbeat was my very first sound,
Her kiss my first affection,
Her loving arms brought security,
Her instruction, clear direction.
I owe the person I've become
to her unselfish love.
There's comfort knowing she's not gone.
She lives with God above.

We Will Share Eternity

My mother is a treasure that I carry in my heart,
Her memory is safely kept within.
All the love she spent on me is held in sweet reserve;
Every kiss and every touch and every precious grin.
I'll miss the many things she was, the special things she did.
Each one will be remembered gratefully.
Though I will miss her through the years,
I'm comforted to know.
She's with her Lord.
We'll meet again and share eternity.

She Knew Me

My mother always knew
the me that others didn't know.
The deeper part of me that thought and felt.
She knew where my belongings were,
the ones I couldn't find;
My socks, my keys, my wallet,
my favorite missing belt.
She knew just what I loved to eat
and when to make each dish.
The way she knew remains a mystery.
How did she sense my troubled times
and help with every hurt?
I truly had a mom who loved
and gave herself for me.
I'm grateful for the precious years
I've had and known her love.
Her memory will live within my heart.
But God has called her to His side to live forevermore.
I cannot hold her back.
I know my mother must depart.

The Love of a Mother

The giving of life
To another is not the end,
But the beginning of being a Mother.

The living of life
For another is not a chore,
But the delight of being a Mother.

The receiving of life
From another is not the reason,
But the reward of being a Mother.

The giving, the living,
the receiving of life
is but the love of a Mother.

-Pastor Lawrence C. Raftery

Military

The Marine's Hymn

From the halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title of
THE UNITED STATES MARINES.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze From dawn to setting sun;

We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far off northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job
UNITED STATES MARINES

Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded by
UNITED STATES MARINES

U.S. Army Hymn (God of Our Fathers)

God of our fathers,
Whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty
All the starry band
Of shining worlds
In splendor thro' the skies.
Our grateful songs
Before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine
Hath led us in the past
In this free land
By Thee our lot is cast,
Be Thou our ruler,
Guardian, guide, and stay,
Thy Word our law,
Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms,
From deadly pestilence,
By Thy strong arm
Our ever sure defense,
Thy true religion
In our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness
Nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people
On their toilsome way,
Lead us from night
To never-ending day,
Fill our lives
With love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise
Be ever Thine

The Navy Hymn

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who biddest the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy Word,
Who walked on the foaming deep
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep,
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Trinity of love and power!
Our family shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect us wheresoever we go;
Thus evermore will rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Air Force Hymn

Lord, guard and guide those who fly
Through the great spaces in the sky;
Be with them traversing the air
In darkening storms or sunshine fair;
You who support with tender might
The balanced birds in all their flight
Lord of the tempered winds, be near,
That, having you, they have no fear.

Control their minds with instinct fit,
Whene'er adventuring, they quit
The firm security of land;
Grant steadfast eye and skillful hand.

Aloft in solitudes of space
Uphold them with your saving grace
O God, protect those who fly
Through lonely ways beneath the sky.

Independence Forever

From lives well spent
earthly duties we learn,
From childhood dreams
to active virtue turn;
Let freedom, friendship,
faith our soul engage,
And serve, like them,
our country and our age.

Spouse

Should You Go First

Should you go first and I remain
To walk the road alone,
I'll live in memory's garden, dear,
With happy days we've known.

In Spring I'll wait for roses red,
When fades the lilac blue,
In early Fall, when brown leaves call
I'll catch a glimpse of you.

Should you go first and I remain
For battles to be fought,
Each thing you've touched along the way
Will be a hallowed spot.
I'll hear your voice, I'll see your smile,
Though blindly I may grope,
The memory of your helping hand
Will buoy me on with hope.

Should you go first and I remain
To finish with the scroll,
No length'ning shadows shall creep in
To make this life seem droll.
We've known so much of happiness,
We've had our cup of joy,
And memory is one gift of God
That death cannot destroy.

Should you go first and I remain,
One thing I'd have you do:
Walk slowly down that long, lone path,
For soon I'll follow you.
I'll want to know each step you take
That I may walk the same,
For some day down that lonely road
You'll hear me call your name.

Other Poems

A Good Life

When we are gone, and people weep
for us and grieve, let it be because we
touched their lives with beauty and
simplicity. Let it not be said that life
was good to us, but, rather,
we were good to life.

-Jacob P. Rudin

Eskimo Legend

Perhaps they are not stars in the sky,
but rather openings where our loved ones
shine down to let us know they are happy.

A True Fisherman

A true fisherman knows when and where the fish are biting
He rises up early in the morning,
plying the water for that elusive catch,
waiting in the stillness for a nibble
A slight twitch in the line,
expertly he reels it in—
A good fisherman knows a keeper when he sees one,
he knows when to toss one back, and when to head for home.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

With the Saints give rest, O Christ,
to the souls of Thy servants, where
there is neither sickness, nor sorrow,
nor sighing, but life everlasting.

Thou only art immortal,
who hast created and fashioned man.
For out of the earth were we mortals made,
and unto the earth shall we return again,
as Thou didst command
when Thou madest man, saying unto me:
For earth thou art, and unto the
earth shall thou return. Whether,
also, all we mortals wend our way,
making of our funeral dirge the song:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Courage and Hope

Nothing gives us more
courage and hope
to face life's uncertainties
Than to remember our moments of glory..
And we've all had a few.

Faithful Departed

O, God, The Creator and Redeemer
Of All the Faithful,
Grant to the Souls
Of Thy Servants departed
The remission of all their sins;
That through pious supplications
They may obtain the pardon
Which they have always desired
Who livest and reignest
World without end. Amen.

Harvest of Memories

When you plant seeds
in the lives of others
And water them with love and care
You will reap a harvest
of sweet memories
That will follow you everywhere

Heavenly Garden

Your gentle touch,
Your tender care.
A smile as bright as sunshine
A heart of no compare.
A spirit that will glow forever,
In the memories that we share.

The Highest Heights

To ascend the highest heights
It takes more than strength,
More than courage;
It takes drive and dedication
To the ones who mean the most...
If we have accomplished great things,
It is by our willingness
to unconditionally love.

Miss Me But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the day
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love we once shared—
Miss me, but let me go.
For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Maker's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows
In doing good deeds—
Miss me, but let me go.

Inspiring Goals

Victory
A life of accomplishments
Unique challenges
Inspiring goals for all
who follow in your steps

My Heart

If my heart wants to dance,
Then I want to dance with my heart.
If my heart wants to sing
Then I want to sing with my heart.
It is the one component of me
That I cannot afford to be alienated from.
My wisdom lies in what I can feel
In my heart every single day
Of my life.

Nature's Beauty

Consider the trees
and how easily they let go of the season's bounty...
How with simple grace and elegance
They share their natural warmth and beauty.

Peaceful Shores

I have lived in sight of the ocean
Where the water runs into land
I have walked on the beach in the morning
And left my tracks in the sand
But musical waves have been calling
And the ocean is so wide and vast
That I've struck for the silver horizon
And put out to sea at last

O You Whom I Have Loved So Much

O you whom I have loved so much,
on earth, pray for me and live in
such a manner that we may be
re-united for ever in a Blessed Eternity.

-St. Bonaventure

Sports Sunday

For all the lazy afternoons
You cheered on the home team
From your favorite chair,
And all the times you cheered us on,
We always strove to make you proud
Though your heroes were on the field
And on the screen,
You were our hero all along.

When I am dead

When I am dead,
cry for me a little.
Think of me sometimes,
but not too much.
It is not good for you, or your wife
or your husband, or your children
to allow your thoughts to dwell
too long on the dead.
Think of me now and again as
I was in life at some moment which it
is pleasant to recall.
But not too long.
Leave me in peace as I shall
leave you, too, in peace.
While you live, let your thoughts
be with the living.

Petals of Her Life

As beautiful as a rose to see,
Was her life she lived so gracefully.
She made things precious by her touch,
Her selfless love lives on in each of us.
The petals of her life fell one by one,
Each a gift of her heart
till there were none.
Yet her radiance blooms once again
In fields of glory with no end.

Tested by Fire

When your character is refined
In the crucible of adversity
And your mettle has been tested by its flames,
When you dedicated your life
To keeping others safe from harm,
Then eternity waits for you
with a hero's welcome.

The Best

God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be.
So He put His arms around you
And whispered "Come to Me."
With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

To Our Absent Brothers—Elks

My brothers and friends,
you have heard the tolling of eleven strokes.
This is to remind us that with the Elks
the hour eleven has a tender significance.
Wherever an Elk may roam, whatever his lot in life may be,
when this hour falls upon the dial of night
the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs.
It is the golden hour of recollection,
the homecoming of those who wander,
the mystic roll call of those who will come no more.
Living or dead, an Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken.
Morning and noon may pass him by,
the light of day sink heedlessly in the West,
but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall,
the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message,
"To our absent brothers."

When I Am Dead

When I am dead pray for me a little,
think of me sometimes, but not too much.
It is not good for you to allow your thoughts
to dwell too long on the dead.
Think of me now and again as I was in life
at some moment which it is pleasant to recall.
But not too long.
Leave me in peace as I shall leave you, too, in peace.
While you live let your thoughts be with the living.

The Rose

It is only a tiny rosebud-
A flower of God's design,
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.
The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I
The flower God opens so sweetly
In my hands would fade and die.
If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I think I have wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?
So I'll trust him for his leading
Each moment of every day,
And I'll look to him for guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.
For the pathway that lies before me
My Heavenly Father knows-
I'll trust him to reveal the moments
Just as he unfolds the rose.