

ABRAHAM

at sunset

God has been my God from that day in Ur
His compelling voice called me from those gods,
and drew me far from home and friends and land
to live in tents and never to return.

I look back at my life, joyful and sad,
sad at the blunders and stumbling and sin,
joyful for all that God has been to me -
God, my shield and my very great reward,
One who always had time to stoop to hear
this poor man who is but ashes and dust.

Do you wonder what drove me from my home
to journey forth, not knowing where I went?
And what made me a pilgrim here on earth,
traveling onward where He points the road,
willing to do whatever He might say?
And do you ever question what brought me
to that lonely high place of sacrifice
where I held the sharp upraised knife above
my son, my promised one, my very heart?
Here then is the great reason for it all:

Faith was that joy which always urged me on,
my unseen hand that grasped eternal truth,
that always kept the city in my sight,
the heavenly one, the city of God.

It was faith that made real those unseen things,
and saw future hopes as sure as the past.
For I thought that the promises God made
He was also well able to fulfill.

Faith was that powerful force in His hands
that always led to light, to life and love,
that changed my outlook, my acts, my aim,
that brought me to humble obedience,
that linked me with the Lord of heaven and earth,
the true and living One, with God my Friend.

And so through me, according to His Word,
blessings will come to nations everywhere,
the blessings of Messiah sure to come.

So I go on in faith, a stranger in this night,
to that much longed for place where faith turns into sight.