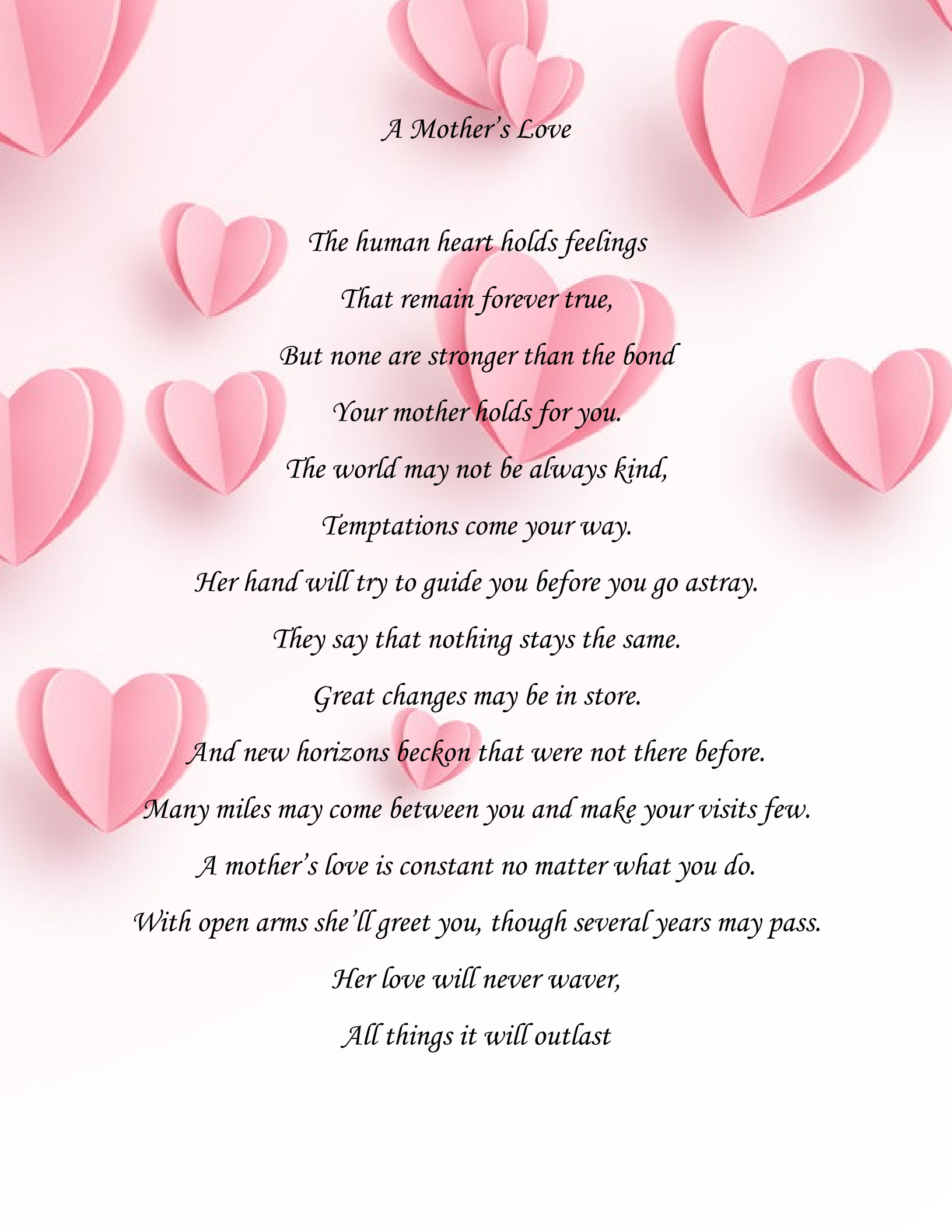


Poems and Prayers



A Golfer's Psalm

*The LORD is my caddie; I shall not whiff.
He maketh me to drive straight down green fairways:
He leadeth me over the still waters.
He restoreth my swing:
He leadeth me in the paths of truthfulness for the game's sake.
Yea, though I pitch through the valley of the shadow of the
woods,
I will fear no bunkers: for thou art with me;
Thy wedge and thy putter they comfort me.
Thou preparest a line before me in the presence of mind hazards:
Thou anointest my stroke with confidence; the cup will not be
runneth over.
Surely birdies and eagles shall follow me all the rounds of my life:
and I will dwell in the clubhouse of the LORD for ever.*

The background of the entire page is decorated with numerous pink hearts of various sizes. Some hearts are simple outlines, while others are 3D-style cutouts with visible folds and shadows, giving them a paper-like appearance. They are scattered across the white background, with some overlapping the text.

A Mother's Love

*The human heart holds feelings
That remain forever true,
But none are stronger than the bond
Your mother holds for you.
The world may not be always kind,
Temptations come your way.
Her hand will try to guide you before you go astray.
They say that nothing stays the same.
Great changes may be in store.
And new horizons beckon that were not there before.
Many miles may come between you and make your visits few.
A mother's love is constant no matter what you do.
With open arms she'll greet you, though several years may pass.
Her love will never waver,
All things it will outlast*

A Ship on the Horizon

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "here she comes!"

Author Unknown



Do not stand at my grave and weep I am not there.

I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

*When you awaken in the morning's hush I am the swift uplifting
rush Of quiet birds in circled flight.*

*I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave
and cry; I am not there. I did not die.*

Mary Elizabeth Frye



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 belonged to him, and the other 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 the most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During those times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

For Such a Little While

*God gave you your daughter
For such a little while;
she put a bit of heaven
In the sunshine of her smile.*

*She took dust from
The brightest twinkling stars
And made her sparkling eyes;
And now, she's gone back home to God,
To play up in the skies.*

*And though she left so quickly
That your hearts are grieved and sad,
We know she lives with God
And her small heart is glad.*

*And though your precious darling
Was just a rosebud small;
She'll bloom in all her beauty
On the other side of the wall.*

Helen Steiner Rice

For Such a Little While

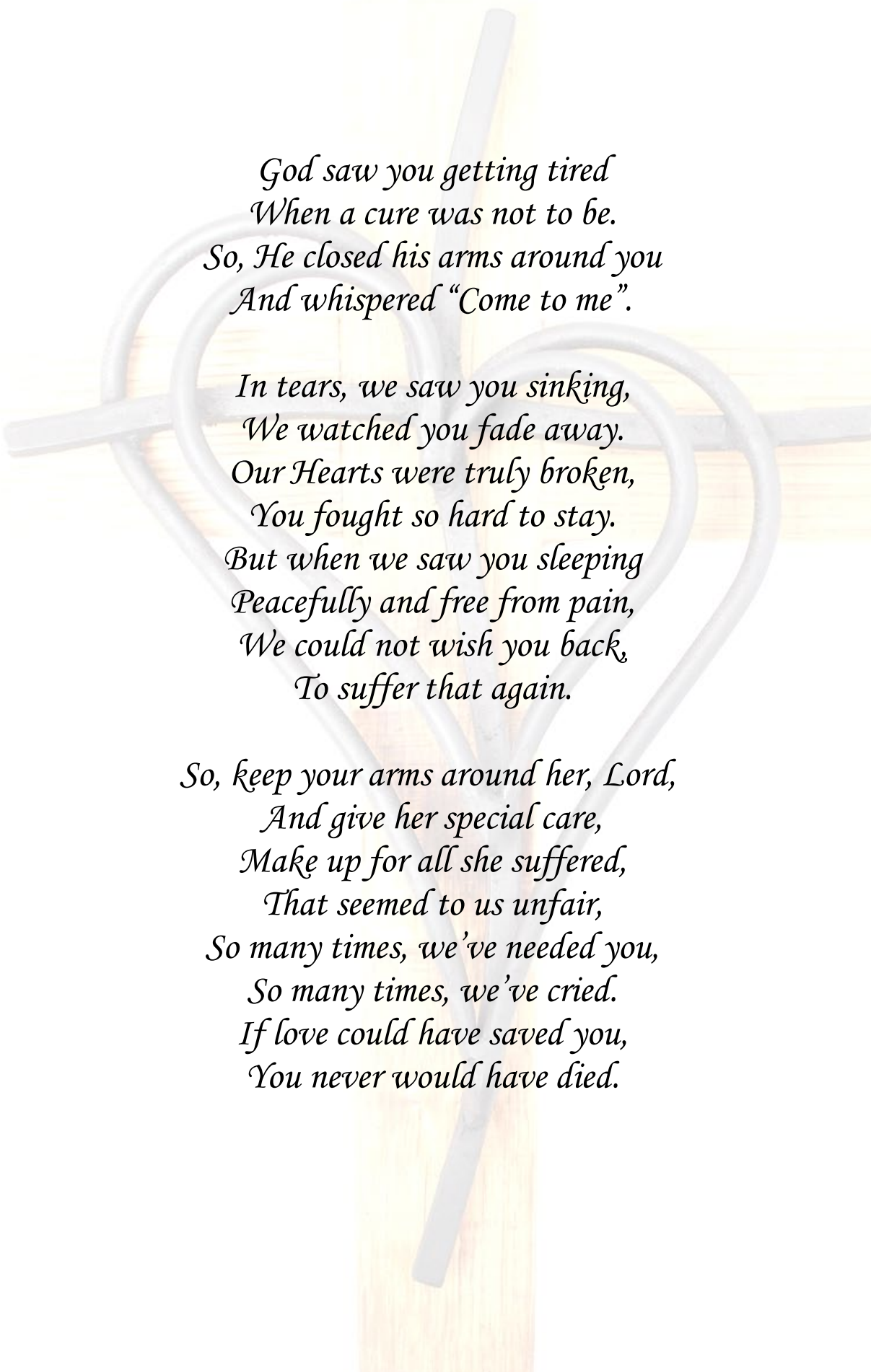
*God gave you your son
For such a little while;
He put a bit of heaven
In the sunshine of his smile.*

*He took dust from
The brightest twinkling stars
And made his sparkling eyes;
And now, he's gone back home to God,
To play up in the skies.*

*And though he left so quickly
That your hearts are grieved and sad,
We know he lives with God
And his small heart is glad.*

*And though your precious darling
Was just a rosebud small;
He'll bloom in all his beauty
On the other side of the wall.*

Helen Steiner Rice



*God saw you getting tired
When a cure was not to be.
So, He closed his arms around you
And whispered "Come to me".*

*In tears, we saw you sinking,
We watched you fade away.
Our Hearts were truly broken,
You fought so hard to stay.
But when we saw you sleeping
Peacefully and free from pain,
We could not wish you back,
To suffer that again.*

*So, keep your arms around her, Lord,
And give her special care,
Make up for all she suffered,
That seemed to us unfair,
So many times, we've needed you,
So many times, we've cried.
If love could have saved you,
You never would have died.*

God's Special Angel

*God needed a special angel,
One loving, good and kind
And so He chose our son
And left us all behind.*

*The tears we shed are many,
Our hearts are filled with pain,
But our loss upon this earth
Is surely Heaven's gain
And though his heart no longer beats
His memory lives within,
Time can never erase the love,
For our son, our best friend.*

Author Unknown



High Flight

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on
laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined
the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds,
and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of
Wheeled and soared and swung*

*High in the sunlit silence.
Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind
swept heights with easy grace.*

*Where never lark or ever eagle, flew
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand,
And touched the face of God.*

John Gillespie Magee, Jr

His Journey's Just Begun

*Don't think of him as gone away
his journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets this earth is only one.
Just think of him as resting from the sorrows
and the tears in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.
Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness can really pass away.
And think of him as living
in the hearts of those he touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost and he was loved so much.*

E. Brenneman

I Have A Place in Heaven

*Please don't sing sad songs for me,
Forget your grief and fears,
For I am in a perfect place
Away from pain and tears
It's far away from hunger
And hurt and want and pride,
I have a place in Heaven
With God at my side.*

*My life on earth was very good,
By loving and being loved by all of you so
But Heaven is so much more
Than anyone can know.
My heart is filled with happiness
And sweet rejoicing, too.
To walk with God is perfect peace,
A joy forever new.*

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 his call,
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've 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 you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savoured 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.*

Miss Me – But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the road
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 that we once shared,
Miss me - but let me go.*

*For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone
It's all a part of the master plan
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends you know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds
Miss me - but let me go.*

A large, multi-masted sailing ship, possibly a naval vessel, is shown from a low angle, looking up at its complex rigging and masts. The ship is white with dark accents. The background is a warm, golden sunset sky, and the water is calm. The ship's name, "H.M.S. Ganges", is partially visible on the hull.

Naval 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Pilot;

I shall not drift.

*He leadeth me across the dark waters and steereth me in the deep
channels.*

*He keepeth my log
and guideth me by the star of holiness
for His Name's sake.*

Yea, though I sail amid the thunders and tempests of life,

I shall dread no danger,

For Thou art with me;

Thy love and Thy care, they shelter me.

Thou preparest a harbor before me

in the homeland of eternity;

Thou anointest the waves with oil,

and my ship rideth calmly.

Surely sunlight and starlight shall favor me all the days of my voyaging,

and I will rest in the port of my Lord forever.

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Nature's first green is gold

Her hardest hue to hold.

Her early leaf's a flower;

But only so an hour.

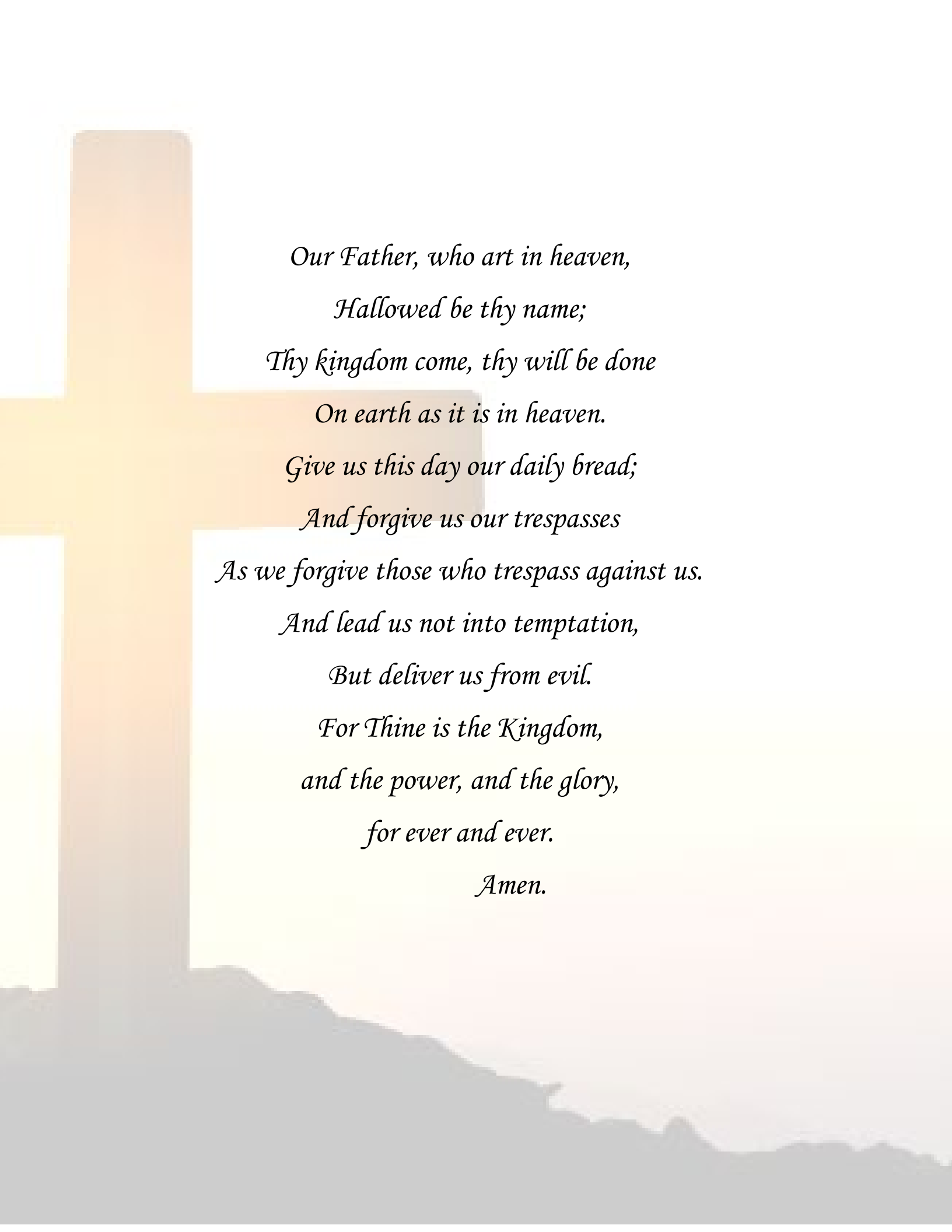
Then leaf subsides to leaf.

So Eden sank to grief,

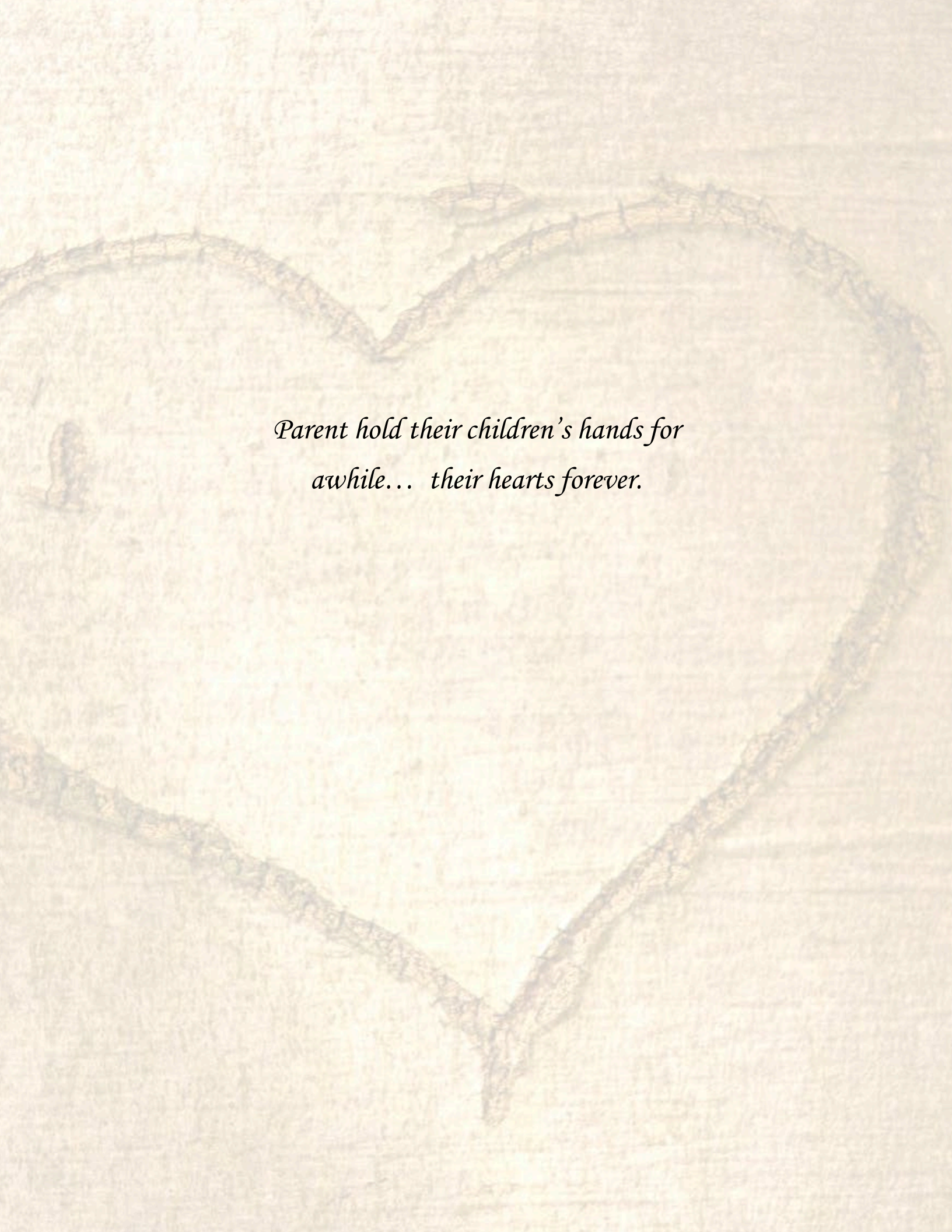
So dawn goes down to day,

Nothing gold can stay.

Robert Frost



*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*



*Parent hold their children's hands for
awhile... their hearts forever.*

Remembered Joy

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free!
I follow the plan God laid for me.
I saw His face, I heard His call,
I took His hand and left it all...
I could not stay another day,
To love, to laugh, to work or play;
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
And 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, shall miss.
My life's been full, I've savored much:
Good times, good friends, a loved-one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief –
Don't shorten yours with undue grief.
Be not burdened with tears of sorrow,
Enjoy the sunshine of the morrow.
Until we meet again,
may God Hold you
in the palm of his hand.*



The Dash

*I read of a woman who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
She referred to the dates on his tombstone
from the beginning...to the end.
She noted that first came his date of birth and spoke
the following date with tears, but she said what mattered
most of all was the Dash – between those years.
For that dash represents all the time that he spent
alive on earth...
and now only those who loved him know
what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own;
the cars... the house... the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
and how we spend our dash.
So think about this long and hard...
are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
that can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough to consider
what's true and real,
And always try to understand the way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
and more often wear a smile.
Remembering that this special dash
might only last a little while.
So, when your eulogy's being read
with your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?*



*The Land of Peace and Joy,
of Light and Love*

*Beyond the rainbow's farthest end, there lies
A land that's always filled with love and light,
Where shadows never fall and dim the skies;
For in this lovely land, there is no night.*

*In this celestial place of joy and peace,
There is no time or space, no doubt or fear;
For those who come to it, all troubles cease,
All worldly difficulties disappear.*

*And though the loss of loved ones or of friends
Bring sorrow and is hard for us to bear,
If we could see beyond the rainbow's end,
We know that we would find them waiting there*

*In that celestial dwelling place above—
The land of peace and joy, of light and love.*

The Naval Hymn

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st 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 walkedst 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 brethren's shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

The Rose Beyond the Wall

*Near shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God's free light,
Watered and fed by the morning dew,
Shedding its sweetness day and night,
As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,
Slowly rising to loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall,
Through which there shone a beam of light.
Onward it crept with added strength,
With never a thought of fear or pride;
It followed the light through the crevice length
And unfolded itself on the other side.
The light, the dew, the broadening view,
Were found, the same as they were before;
And it lost itself in beauties new,
Breathing its fragrance more and more.
Shall claim of death cause us to grieve
And make our courage faint or fall?
Nay, let us faith and hope receive;
The rose still grows beyond the wall,
Scattering fragrance far and wide,
Just as it did in days of yore,
Just as it did on the other side,
Just as it will forever more.*

A.L. Frink

The Voice of the Wind

*When the warm breeze of April caresses you
part of it will be me.*

*When you look into the eyes of my children
part of them will be me.*

*When a snowflake of winter
plants a kiss on your cheek,
that kiss might well have been me.*

*And the dust, which appears out of nowhere
may be part of the dust that was me.*

*Through the promise of morning
and the voice of the wind*

I will always have something to say.

*To reflect on those wonderful moments
and warm you as you make your way.*

*All things that we both were a part of
will continue to brighten each day.*

*Making room for the sound of your laughter
By remembering I'm not far away.*

David Garred

The Weaver

*My life is but a weaving
Between the Lord and me
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily*

*Oft times He weaveth sorrow
And I, in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper,
And I the underside*

*Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttle cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvass
And explain the reason why*

*The dark threads are as needful
In the weavers skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned*

*He knows, He loves, He cares
Nothing this truth can dim
He gives His very best to those
Who leave the choice with Him*

*To Those I Love
And Those Who Love Me*

*When I am gone, release me let me go...
I have so many things to see and do,
You must not tie yourself to me with tears,
Be happy we had so many 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 alone.*

*So grieve a while for me, for grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while 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 me or touch me, I'll be near,
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
All of 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".*

We remember them

*In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.*

*In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.*

*In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember them.*

*In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.*

*In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember them.*

*In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.*

*When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember them.*

*When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember them.*

*When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember them.*

*So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of
us,
as we remember them.*

Winged Jewel
(Hummingbird Poem)

*With wings spun of silver and hearts of gold,
These tiny creatures our hearts behold.
With angelic features and colors so bright,
Make even the heaviest heart seem light.
The magical way they flit through the sky,
They appear, then vanish in the blink of an eye.
They're sending a message for us to retrieve,
Anything's possible for those who believe!*

Author unknown