

Where the Light Begins - Texts and Translations

Make Me One

At night, make me one with the darkness.
In the morning, make me one with the light.

O frondens virga

O leafy branch,
in your nobility stand firm
as sunrise proceeds.
Now be glad and rejoice,
and find our weakness worthy.
Free us from evil ways,
and stretch out your hand
to lift us.

You Do Not Walk Alone

May you see God's light on the path ahead
When the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear,
Even in your hour of sorrow,
The gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness
Never turn your heart to stone,
May you always remember
when the shadows fall –
You do not walk alone.

Der Mond kommt still gegangen

The moon rises quietly with its golden glow, and lovingly puts the weary earth to sleep.
The breezes carry to the sleepers a thousand thoughts of love arising from devoted hearts.
Down in the valley, lights sparkle in the windows of my love's house,
but I stand alone in the dark and look out into the world.

Sure on this Shining Night

Sure on this shining night
Of star-made shadows round
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground
On this shining night
This shining night

Sure on this shining night
Of star-made shadows round
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground
On this shining night
This shining night

The late year lies down the north
All is healed, all is health
High summer holds the earth
Hearts all whole

The late year lies down the north
All is healed, all is health
High summer holds the earth
Hearts all whole

Sure on this shining night
Sure on this shining night
Sure on this shining night

I weep for wonder
Wandering far alone
Of shadows on the stars

Sure on this shining night
Of star-made shadows round
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground
On this shining night

This shining night

Sure on this shining night.

In Those Years, No One Slept

Some, like my grandfather,
slept standing,
hiding among cornstalks
and listening for dogs.

The woods were full of women dressed in black.

The woods
were full of veiled women
who'd come to him and ask
Did you see my son?
Is he still alive?

The woods were full of veiled women
and young men sleeping,
standing
behind every tree trunk.

The woods were full.

Young men wore rifles
and slept standing
behind every tree trunk.

The women were dressed in black
with large wings on their backs.

Did you see my son?
My husband? Brother?

The woods were full.
So were the cemeteries.

Everyone slept standing.

There Will Come Soft Rains

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild plum-trees in tremulous white;

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;

And robins will wear their feathery fire
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;

And no one will know of the war, not one
Not one will care at last when it's done.

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree
If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn,
Would scarcely know that we were gone.

Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?

What if instead of more violence
We let our weapons fall silent?
No more revenge or retribution
No more war or persecution.

It could be beautiful.

What if instead of our judgment
We soften our hearts that have hardened?
Instead of certainty and pride

We love and sacrifice.

It could be beautiful.

Can we see the other as our brother?
Can we sing the darkness to light?
Sounding chords of compassion and grace?
Set the swords of judgement aside

Let mercy's eyes see the other human face.

Lookin' for Blue Sky

gray clouds, dimmed light
no stars, black night
path frozen
dreams unspoken
rain crash down

gaps in clouds
silver lines
flame bright
lookin' for blue sky
lookin' for blue sky
blue sky

kiss the clouds goodbye
blue sky
blue sky

weather the storm
beaten and worn
bones start to crack
but the sun's at your back
blue sky
blue sky

shining shimmering star

joyful giant with a laughing heart
letting in the light
pierces down straight through the dark
blue sky, blue sky
lookin' for blue sky

blue sky
letting in the light
kiss the clouds goodbye

lookin' for blue sky
blue sky

Be the Light

There is always a light - when we are ready to see it
There is always a light - when we are ready to be it
To see the light, to be the light,
to raise our eyes in the dark of night
To climb this hill, together we will

Shine your light in the darkness
Shine your light in the darkness
Let your bright heart burn out loud
And be a gift in the world

There is always a light - when we are ready to see it
There is always a light - when we are ready to be it
To see the light, to be the light,
to raise our eyes in the dark of night
To climb this hill, together we know we will

There is always a light - when we are ready to see it
There is always a light – now you are ready to be it
To see the light, to be the light,
to raise our eyes in the dark of night
To climb this hill, together we know we'll be the light

There is always light. There is always light.
To see the light, to be the light, to shine
Climb this hill. We know we will.
There is always light.
Be the light. Be the light!

Where the Light Begins

Perhaps it does not begin.
Perhaps it is always.

Perhaps it takes
a lifetime
to open our eyes,
to learn to see
what has forever
shimmered in front of us—

the luminous line
of the map
in the dark

the vigil flame
in the house
of the heart

the love
so searing
we cannot keep
from singing,
from crying out
in testimony
and praise.

Perhaps this day
will be the mountain
over which
the dawn breaks.

Perhaps we
will turn our face
toward it,
toward what has been
always.

Perhaps
our eyes
will finally open
in ancient recognition,
willingly dazzled,
illuminated at last.

Perhaps this day
the light begins
in us.

Flight

Let me run thru a field in the night,
let me lift from the ground 'til my soul is in flight.
Let me sway like the shade of a tree,
let me swirl like a cloud in a storm on the sea.

Wish me on my way thru the dawning day.
I wanna flow, wanna rise, wanna spill,
wanna grow in a grove on the side of a hill.

I don't care if the train runs late,
if the checks don't clear, if the house blows down.
I'll be off where the weeds run wild,
where the seeds fall far from this earthbound town.

And I'll start to soar.
Watch me rain 'til I pour.
I'll catch a ship that'll sail me astray,
get caught in a wind, I'll just have to obey

'til I'm flyin' away...

Let me leave behind all the clouds in my mind.
I wanna wake without wondering why,
finding myself in a burst for the sky.
High!

I'll just roll.
Let me lose all control.
I wanna float like a wish in a well,
free as the sound of a sea in a shell.

I don't know, but maybe I'm just a fool.
I should keep to the ground.
I should stay where I'm at.
Maybe everyone has hunger like this,
and the hunger will pass.
But I can't think like that.

All I know is somewhere, thru a clearing,
there's a flickering of sunlight on a river long and wide,
and I have such a river inside.

Let me run through a field in the night,
let me lift from the ground 'til my soul is in flight.
Let me sway like the shade of a tree,
let me swirl like a cloud in a storm on the sea.

Wish me on my way thru the dawning day.
I wanna flow, wanna rise, wanna spill,
wanna grow on the side of a hill,
wanna shift like a wave rollin' on,
wanna drift from the path I've been traveling upon,
before I am gone.

Will There Really be a Morning?

Will there really be a "Morning"?
Is there such a thing as "Day"?
Could I see it from the mountains
If I were as tall as they?

Morning, Morning
Where does Morning lie?
Has it feet like Water lilies?
Has it feathers like a Bird?
Is it brought from famous countries
Of which I have never heard?

Morning, Morning
Where does Morning lie?
Oh some Scholar! Oh some Sailor!
Oh some Wisemen from the skies!
Please to tell a little Pilgrim
Where the place called "Morning" lies!

Morning, Morning
Where does Morning lie?

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

It's been a long dark night
And I've been waiting for the morning
It's been a long hard fight
But I see a brand new day dawning
I've been looking for the sunshine
'cause I ain't seen it in so long
Everything's gonna work out fine
Everything's gonna be all right,
it's gonna be okay

I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day

I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be all right,
it's gonna be okay.

I can see the light
see the light
brand new day.

By Night

Deep in the tarn the mountain
A mighty phantom gleamed!

She leaned out into the midnight,
And the summer wind went by,
The scent of the rose on its silken wing
And a song its sigh.

And in depths below the waters,
Answered some mystic height,
As a star stooped out of the depths above
With its lance of light.

And she thought, in the dark and the fragrance,
How vast was the wonder wrought
If the sweet world were but the beauty born
In its Maker's thought.