

Be Thou My Vision

Ancient Irish (attributed to Dallán Forgaill) · 8th century · Tune: Slane (Traditional Irish ('Slane'))
Meter: 10.10.10.10

Verse 1

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Verse 2

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Verse 3

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

Verse 4

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

History

The Old Irish text 'Rop tú mo baile' is traditionally attributed to the 6th-century poet Dallán Forgaill. Mary E. Byrne translated it to English in 1905; Eleanor Hull versified it in 1912 and paired it with the folk tune 'Slane'.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.