

Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart

Eleanor H. Hull / SLANE



1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Power of my power.

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, through all my days;
thou, and thou only the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

5. High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Inspiration: "Rop tú mo Baile"; traditional Irish; translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne, in "Ériu", 1905.

Lyrics: 10.10.10.10 dactylic; Eleanor Henrietta Hull, 1860-1935, in "Poem Book of the Gael", 1912.

Music: SLANE; traditional Irish melody; adapted from "The Church Hymnary", 1927; keyboard accompaniment from www.hymnquest.com. Public domain.