

Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart

Eleanor H. Hull

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art:
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord:
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be,
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might:
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heav'nward, great Power of my power.
4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
be thou my inheritance now and always:
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sov'reign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joy after vict'ry is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Inspiration: "Rop tú mo Baile"; traditional Irish; translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne, in "Ériu", 1905.
Lyrics: 10.11.11 dactylic; Eleanor Henrietta Hull, 1860-1935, in "Poem Book of the Gael", 1912.