

A response to Psalm 23 written by Henry H. Barry

“In pastures green?” Not always so; sometimes He,
who knoweth best, in kindness leadeth me
in weary ways where heavy shadows be;
out of the sunshine warm and soft and bright,
out of the sunshine into the darkest night.
I oft would faint with sorrow and affright,
only for this, I know he holds my hand;
so whether in the green or desert land
I trust, although I may not understand.

“And by still waters?” No, not always so;
oft times the heavy tempests round me blow,
and o’er my soul the waters and billows go.
But when the storms beat loudest and I cry
aloud for help, the Master standeth by
and whispers to my soul, “Lo, it is I.”
Above the tempest wild I hear Him say,
“Beyond this darkness lies a perfect day.
In every path of thine I lead the way.”

So whether on the hilltops high and fair
I dwell. Or in the sunless valleys where
the shadows lie, what matters? He is there;
and more than this, where’er the pathway
lead He gives to me no helpless broken reed,
but His own hand, sufficient for my need.
So where He leads me, I can safely go,
and in the blest hereafter I shall know
why, in His wisdom, He hath led me so.