

If I had known

If I had known what trouble
You were bearing
What grief were in the
Silence of your face

I would have been more
Gentle and more caring
And tried to give you gladness
For a space

I would have brought more
Warmth into the place if I had known
(Why do we never understand?)

Light

The night has a thousand eyes,
The day but one
Yet the light of the bright
World dies
With the dying sun

The mind has a thousand eyes
And the heart but one
Yet the light of a whole life dies
When its love is done

The Winds of Fate

One ship drives east and another drives west
With the selfsame winds that blow
'Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales
Which tells us the way to go

Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate
As we voyage along through life
'Tis the set of a soul
That decides its goal
And not the calm or the strife

Let me grow lovely

Let me grow lovely, growing old
So many fine things to do
Laces and ivory and gold
And silks need not be new
And there is healing in old trees
Old streets a glamour hold
Why may not I, as well as these
Grow lovely growing old?

I shall not pass this way again
Through this toilsome world, alas
Once and only once I pass
If a kindness I may show
If a good deed I may do
To the suffering fellow man
Let me do it while I can
No delay for it is plain
I shall not pass this way again

A smile

Let others cheer the winning man
There's one I hold worthwhile
'Tis he who does the best he can
Then loses with a smile
Beaten he is, but not to stay
Down with the rank and file
That man will win some other day
Who loses with a smile

The human touch
'Tis the human touch in this world
That counts
The touch of your hand and mine
Which means far more to the fainting heart
Than shelter and bread and wine
For shelter is gone with the night is over
And bread lasts only a day
But the touch of a hand and the
Sound of the voice
Sing on in the soul always