

## A Child Loaned

"I'll lend you for a little time  
A child of Mine." He said.  
"For you to love the while he lives  
And mourn for when he's dead.  
It may be six or seven year  
Or twenty-two or three  
But will you, till I call him back  
Take care of him for Me?  
He'll bring his charms to gladden you  
And should his stay be brief,  
You'll have his lovely memories  
As solace for your grief.

I cannot promise he will stay  
Since all from Earth return,  
But there are lessons taught down there  
I want the child to learn.  
I've looked this wide world over  
In my search for teacher's true,  
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes,  
I have selected you;  
Now will you give him all your love,  
And take him back again?

I fancied that I heard them say,  
"Dear Lord, They will be done,  
For all the joy Thy child shall bring,  
For the risk of grief we'll run.  
We'll shelter him with tenderness,  
We'll love him while we may,  
And for the happiness we've known,  
Forever grateful stay.  
But should the angels call for him  
Much sooner than we planned,  
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes  
And try to understand."

