

William Butler Yeats When You are old and Grey

"When you are old and grey and full of sleep

And nodding by the fire, take down this book"

The one that has accompanied you through the years

The one that has consoled through blood and tears

It tells the story of how the world unfolds

From the very beginning until it again remoulds

And there long written down I find the truth

Of all the promises that the King forsook

He took the wretched mess that we had made

And paid the costly price so we'd be saved.

In my mind's eye I look back and see

That all my life he's never forsaken me

Though things at times were tough I wasn't alone

I knew that he was always safely on his throne

Whilst I always felt his hand in mine

And his sweet whisper always in my mind

I'll never let you go till your last day

And then I'll take you home to always stay

In that once far land that now is drawing near

when weariness and all that I once feared

Will be swallowed up in a golden haze

And I will live in paradise endless days.