

Prayers Written at Vailima and Lowden Sabbath Morn: A Journey into Stevenson's Spiritual Expressions



Prayers Written At Vailima and A Lowden Sabbath Morn

by Robert Louis Stevenson

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Robert Louis Stevenson, renowned for his captivating tales of adventure and romance, also penned a collection of prayers that offer a glimpse into his profound spiritual beliefs. Written during his time in Samoa and Scotland, these prayers, titled "Prayers Written at Vailima" and "Lowden Sabbath Morn," are an intimate expression of his faith and reflections on the human condition.

This article delves into the depths of Stevenson's prayers, exploring their themes, language, and the insights they provide into his relationship with God, nature, and humanity. By examining the contexts and motivations behind their creation, we gain a deeper understanding of Stevenson's spiritual journey and the evolution of his thoughts and beliefs.

Prayers Written at Vailima

Inspired by the idyllic surroundings of his beloved Vailima estate in Samoa, Stevenson composed a series of prayers that reflect his deep appreciation for the natural beauty and the Polynesian culture that enveloped him. Written in a simple and lyrical style, these prayers evoke a sense of wonder, gratitude, and a profound connection to the divine.

In the prayer "Before the Altar of the Pacific," Stevenson expresses his awe at the vastness of the ocean, praising God's "kind and mysterious wisdom" that guides the "deep-sea waves" and the "thousand islands." He also acknowledges the Polynesian people, asking God to "be with them in the dark and hour of trial."

The prayer "At the Vailima" captures the essence of his daily life in Samoa, offering a glimpse into his routine and relationship with nature. He prays for guidance in his daily endeavors, asking for "strength to live" and "courage to die."

Lowden Sabbath Morn

In contrast to the tropical setting of Vailima, "Lowden Sabbath Morn" was written during Stevenson's stay in Scotland, a time when he grappled with ill health and the complexities of faith. Composed on a cold Sabbath morning in February 1891, this prayer reflects his longing for spiritual renewal and guidance.

Stevenson's use of imagery in this prayer is particularly poignant, as he describes the "dreary town" and the "drear and drizzling day" that surrounds him. Yet, amidst the gloom, he finds solace in the memory of a

past Sabbath morn, where he experienced "the beauty of the Sabbath peace."

He prays for strength to "hear the voice of God" and to resist the "burden of the flesh," seeking a deeper connection to the divine. The prayer ends on a note of hope and anticipation, as he looks forward to "the rest of the Sabbath in the kirk."

Themes and Language

Throughout his prayers, Stevenson consistently explores themes of faith, nature, gratitude, and the human condition. His language is characterized by a simplicity and sincerity that reflects his deep personal beliefs.

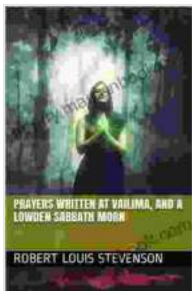
In both "Prayers Written at Vailima" and "Lowden Sabbath Morn," Stevenson expresses a deep sense of gratitude for the beauty of the natural world, recognizing its divine origins. He also acknowledges the challenges and struggles of human existence, seeking divine guidance and support.

Stevenson's use of language is particularly striking in "Lowden Sabbath Morn," where he employs vivid imagery to convey the bleakness of his surroundings. The repetition of the word "dreary" and the description of the "drizzling day" create a palpable sense of desolation. However, his prayerful tone and the use of phrases like "the beauty of the Sabbath peace" offer a glimmer of hope amidst the gloom.

Stevenson's prayers, written in the idyllic setting of Vailima and the introspective solitude of Lowden Sabbath Morn, provide a deeply personal and moving insight into his spiritual journey. Through the simplicity and

sincerity of his words, he invites us to reflect on our own faith, appreciation for nature, and the challenges we face as human beings.

By delving into the prayers of Robert Louis Stevenson, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexity and depth of his spirituality. His words continue to inspire and resonate with those who seek solace, guidance, and connection in their own lives.

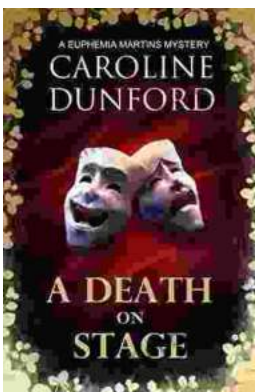


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