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When I Am Stronger

J. B. Montgomery-McGovern

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When I Am Stronger

By J. B. MONTGOMERY-McGOVERN

For prayers left unanswered,
Though prayer in agony was wrought—
For longing denied,
Though bitter the denial—
For these, O God, I build an altar.
And some day, when I am stronger,
I shall burn incense
On the altar I have builded
To God's wisdom.

The prayers that have been granted—
When I thought that God was good—
Their granting has brought
What granted prayers must bring:
Shadow that follows light,
Smoke that envelopes flame.
Such is the law, priests say,
Law of God's wisdom.

To that wisdom I build now an altar,
And when I am stronger
I shall come and burn incense
To the God who makes laws
That rend men—
For their good, priests say.

Restraint

By ELINOR LENNEN

Only the ignorant are clamorous,
Fearful they may forget before they tell.
The patient wise await their turn to speak.
The desert could be still a thousand years
And yet retain its truth inviolate.