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I PRAY FOR YOU

BY EMILY STUART LAWRENCE

I know not what the pain that lies—
The hidden pain so hard to bear—
Deep in your heart and through your
eyes
Asks me for sympathy and prayer;
But deepest sympathy I feel
In answer to its mute appeal.

It may be God has given you
Some task that to the utmost tries
Strength, courage, patience, true love,
too,
Until your fainting spirit cries
Beneath its load, and One draws near
Who waits the feeblest prayer to hear.

Perhaps the friend that most you loved
and trusted as a friend indeed,
In time of sorest stress has proved
Untrue, a wind-tossed, broken reed
And all the confidence of years
Has passed away in burning tears.

I do not pray that God will take
This sorrow from your life; ah, no!
I only pray that he will make
It work for good to you, and so
Bring you rich gain in coming years
For all your losses, griefs and tears.

It may be Death has passed your door
On cruel mission bent, and left
A loneliness that evermore
Remains with those by him bereft.
The shadows of a grave may lie
Upon your heart, across your sky.

Some living trouble, worse to bear
Than those with dead forms laid
away,
May dwell with you, and ever share
Your sweetest hour, your brightest
day;
Laying its hand on every joy,
Touching all gladness, to destroy.

Whate'er it be, this grief that lies
Deep in your heart, its presence
there
Cannot be hid, but through your eyes
It asks for sympathy and prayer;
And so this one thing, dear, I do,
With earnest heart I pray for you.

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