Our Lady of the Rain

With cheer and exaltation, With hope for all things born, To hearten the disheartened, To solace the forlorn, Too gentle and all-seeing For judgement or disdain, She comes with lovingkindness— Our Lady of the Rain.

With magical resurgence For all the sons of men, She crosses winter's frontier, They know not whence nor when. Yet silently as sunlight Along the forest floor, Her step is on the threshold, Her shadow at the door.

On many a lonely clearing Among the timbered hills, She calls across the distance, Until the twilight fills With voice of loosened waters, And from the marshy ground The frogs begin refilling Their flutes with joyous sound.

Then note by note is lifted The chorus clear and shrill, And all who hear her summons Must answer to her will; For she will not abandon The old Pandean strain That called the world from chaos— Our Lady of the Rain.

And still her wondrous music Comes up with early spring, And meadowland and woodland With silver wildness ring; The sparrow by the roadside, The wind among the reeds, Whoever hears that piping Must follow where it leads. 17

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