

The Ninevites gave alms,
 Let us desist from oppressions ;
 The Ninevites set their slaves at liberty,
 Do you have pity on freed men.

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The young child, at the sound of the earthquake,
 Fled for refuge to his mother's breast.
 The children enquired, while weeping,
 How many days yet remain
 From the time which that Hebrew preacher
 Hath determined for us ?
 And what is the hour he hath indicated
 When we shall go down below to Sheol ?
 The fathers checked their tears,
 And fought with and restrained their tenderness.
 Like Abraham, with a prophecy,
 They confronted their children.
 For Isaac enquired concerning the sacrifice,
 " Where is the lamb for the burnt offering ? "
 Abraham deliberated with himself
 How he might satisfy his beloved one ;
 While avoiding plain discourses,
 He prophesied a hidden mystery ;
 And while seeking not to reveal the truth,
 He plainly declared it to him.
 For the tongue of Abraham
 Was more knowing than his heart ;
 His mouth *before* took lesson from his heart,
 His heart *now* learned from it.
 Thus also the Ninevites acted,
 While studying to satisfy their children.
 " God is good and gracious,
 And will not destroy the image he hath made.
 By the threatenings of perdition
 He calls us to repentance
 And by his fierce indignation
 Would convert us to holiness.
 For you, beloved children,
 Have oftimes been chastened by us,
 And have been made wise when punished.
 So He, the good and gracious,
 Teaches by his reproof,
 That by His goodness he may save us."
 The king convoked his armies,
 He wept with them and they with him.
 " Let us act like men and become renowned.
 For although we should not gain our purpose,
 We shall have the fame of men of courage.
 It hath been reported to us by tradition