

# **ENCOURAGEMENT IN SONG**

## **THRU THE YEARS...**

**‘How Great Thou Art’ (1885)**

**‘It Is Well With My Soul’ (1873)**

**‘Blessed Assurance’ (1873)**

**‘What A Friend We Have In Jesus’ (1868)**

**‘Jesus Paid It All’ (1865)**

**‘Amazing Grace’ (1779)**

**‘How Firm A Foundation’ (1787)**

**‘When I Survey The Wondrous Cross’ (1707)**

**‘Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow’ (1673)**

**‘A Mighty Fortress’ (1529 – Martin Luthter)**

**‘All Creatures Of Our God and King’ (1225 – Francis of Assisi)**

**But even older than these we find “**Rop tu mo baile**“!**

**“Rop tu mo baile“!**

**This Celtic phrase translates as “*Be Thou My Vision*“...**

**These words were supposedly spoken by (saint) Patrick on Easter Sunday in ca. 433 A.D. The Irish High King of Tara, Logaire, had issued a decree that no one could light a fire before he did which would signal the beginning of the Druid Spring festival...**

**Before this decree the “the converts to Patrick’s teaching would light fires on Easter morning.” Patrick, refusing to honor anyone but Christ, stood against the king. So that morning, he risked his life by climbing to the tallest hill in the area and lite a fire as before.**

**Logaire was so impressed with Patrick’s devotion that he allowed Patrick to continue his ‘missionary’ work.**

**Prior to this, stories tell that Patrick was about sixteen when he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain and taken as a slave to Ireland. He later wrote that he lived there for six years as an animal herder before escaping and with great hardship managed to return to his family in Britain. It is told that his father was a high church (Catholic) leader and Patrick also became a cleric.**

**Feeling the need to preach to his former Celtic masters he returned to spread the story of Christ in northern and western Ireland. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.**

**However, it was not until 1912 that “Be Thou My Vision“ was translated into English and not until 1919 that it was matched to the traditional Irish tune “Slane“...**

**Appropriately, the tune “Slane“ got its name from Slane Hill in Ireland, which is where Patrick lit a fire (candles?) on Easter morning in defiance of High King Logaire’s decree against any other fire before his to celebrate not Easter, but the pagan Spring festival.**



# Be Thou My Vision

1

“Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.

**Psalms 62:1**...My soul waiteth in silence for God only: From him cometh my salvation.

Thou my best thought, by day or by night. Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

**Psalms 95:2**... Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

# Be Thou My Vision

## 2

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee,  
and Thou with me Lord;

**James 1:17**... Every good gift and every perfect gift is from  
above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can  
be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning.

Thou my great Father, I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling,  
and I with Thee one.

**John 10:30**... *I and the Father are one.*

# Be Thou My Vision

3

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou my inheritance, now and always:

**1 Peter 1:3...** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

# Be Thou My Vision

3

**Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven,  
my treasure Thou art.**

**Isaiah 33:6...** *And there shall be stability in thy times,  
abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge: the fear of  
Jehovah is thy treasure.*

# Be Thou My Vision

4

High King of Heaven, my victory won, May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Heart of my heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all!

**1 John 5:4...** *For whatsoever is begotten of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith.*