

**MORNING SONGS
IN
THE NIGHT: POEMS**

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Morning Songs in the Night: Poems by Walter A. Ratcliffe

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MORNING SONGS

IN THE NIGHT

Poems

BY

WALTER A. RATCLIFFE

WITH A PREFACE BY

WILLIAM DOUW LIGHTHALL, M.A., F.R.S.L.

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ENTRUSTED according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, by WILLIAM HAYES, at the Department of Agriculture.

TO THE MEMORY
OF HIS RECENTLY DEPARTED FRIEND

Dr. R. D. Wilson

OF LISTOWEL, ONT.

WHO FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS WAS A MOTHER TO THE
AUTHOR, AND UNDER WHOSE ROOF MOST OF
THESE "SONGS" WERE WRITTEN

THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY AND REVERENTLY

DEDICATED BY

THE AUTHOR.

Listowel, April, 1897.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and financial management. The text notes that without reliable records, it is difficult to track the flow of funds and ensure that resources are being used effectively and efficiently.

2. The second part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data collection and analysis. It highlights that gathering accurate and timely data can be a complex task, often requiring significant resources and expertise. The text suggests that organizations should invest in robust data management systems and training to overcome these challenges. Additionally, it stresses the importance of ensuring the privacy and security of the data collected, as this is crucial for maintaining trust and compliance with relevant regulations.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in improving operational efficiency. It discusses how digital tools and automation can streamline processes, reduce errors, and enhance communication. The text encourages organizations to explore innovative solutions and stay up-to-date with the latest technological advancements. It also notes that while technology offers many benefits, it is important to consider the potential risks and ensure that any implementation is done in a secure and controlled manner.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the importance of continuous improvement and innovation. It suggests that organizations should regularly evaluate their performance and seek ways to optimize their operations. The text encourages a culture of learning and experimentation, where employees are encouraged to share ideas and take ownership of their work. It also notes that staying competitive in a rapidly changing market requires a commitment to ongoing innovation and adaptation.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes by emphasizing the need for strong leadership and governance. It states that effective leaders are essential for setting a clear vision, establishing a strong organizational culture, and ensuring that all stakeholders are aligned and working towards common goals. The text suggests that organizations should implement robust governance structures and mechanisms to ensure that decisions are made in a transparent and accountable manner. Finally, it reiterates the importance of maintaining high standards of integrity and ethical conduct throughout all activities.

PREFACE.

WITHIN these covers is to be found one of the most notable volumes of verse recently published in Canada, because probably no other deals so intensely yet simply with the everyday problems of the soul and of suffering humanity. The author, Walter A. Ratcliffe, of Listowel, Ontario, has for years been cut off from the ordinary pleasures of life by an unusually heavy affliction—having become almost totally blind and deaf. His only communication with his few friends has been through the ear trumpet and the sympathetic touch and treatment. In the sadness of his life his poetry has been to him a solace and an unburdening, and we catch the heart-throbs in the singing of the caged linnnet:

“If I should die to-night
No terror would affright;
No quailing at the billows' ceaseless boom,
No boding fear of boundless, rayless gloom,
And chill and damp of night.
But when the last warm light
Of life, a burned-out candle's glow,
Shines o'er the fleeted years, what would it show,
If I should die to-night?”

Brooding such thoughts, he turns with a bond of deep sympathy to the sufferings of the masses of mankind; sees them bear the fetters of ceaseless toil and reap only a fraction of its fruits, while the wealthy revel in vastly disproportionate luxury; sees, in most countries, their poverty made hopeless by great monopolies of land; and he sings of a coming era when these injustices and

monopolies shall disappear, and mankind—and especially the sons and daughters of his country—shall be free:

“Free from the thralldom of gold,
Free from the wars of their creeds,
Free from the terror of want,
Free with the freedom of Love.”

His leanings find a remedy for much in a socialistic order of society—perhaps too much, for how can any legislation from without produce an ideal society without a regeneration from within?

Death and the future life are subjects of intense probing by him; not wild nor fanciful, but the piercings of a thoughtful mind and balanced judgment:

“Like glow-worms that, in perfume-laden June,
A moment gleam where vines have hid the moon;
Or, like the prismic hues on bubbles fair,
A moment bright,—a touch, a breath, then where?
Or like the wand’ring stars o’er heaven’s face,
That flit as flits a smile, then melt in space:
We come and go, we know not whence or why,
And call it Life, this moment’s laugh and sigh.

“The oriole’s trilling in the poplar shade,
The pearly dew-drop on the thirsting blade,
Yon fairy form, sun-kist at eve and free,
A snow-drift sailing in an azure sea,—
If these be vain, if these be worthless quite,
Then, only then, meseems thou saidst aright.

“Far ‘neath the restless wave an insect train,
Unseen, unheard, doth toil, yet not in vain;
Each walls its little cell, and roofs it o’er,
Then others come and find foundation sure
Whereon to build; and thus tier over tier
Is rear’d as Time doth add year unto year;
But who first wrought his labor hath not done
Till that fair reef looks forth upon the sun.
So we, my friend, do build, or great or small,
Till Error dies and Truth is all in all.”