

**THE HEAVENLY VOICE; A
LIFE OF CHRIST IN
BLANK VERSE: HIS WORK
AND WORD IN SONNETS**

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The Heavenly Voice; A Life of Christ in Blank Verse: His Work and Word in Sonnets by
Margaretta Ayres Karr

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His Work and Word in Sonnets

By

MARGARETTA AYRES KARR



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TO MOTHER

To thee, companion, counselor, first friend,
Who early sought my sinful ways to mend,
By teachings from the book of books divine,
To so instill a love of truth like thine.

Who brooded o'er thy child with ceaseless care,
With selfless love, as priceless pure as rare;
From spring of day to sunset hue of eve,
Thine only thought how others' woes relieve.

Thy suffering years a ministry of pain,
Thou countedst loss for higher, holier gain:
Till God's white-wingèd messenger of peace,
Brought thee at last a sweet, swift, sure release.

When bursting bud oped into first, fresh leaf,
Thine angel came to garner up his sheaf;
Transplanted to the virgin soil of God,
To bloom with vernal freshness fair, untrod.

To thee, whose rare insight encouraged mine,
To voice the thought by Spirit's gift divine,
I dedicate these lowly lays truth-taught,
To thee, O mother mine, life's love inwrought.

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PREFACE

In the sere and yellow leaf of 1899, when clouds as a thick darkness spread over the sky of the author, it pleased the Lord to bestow upon His lowly handmaiden a gift of light, to irradiate the inner and outer life with increasing glow.

Falling noiselessly, as the first droppings of a plenteous shower, it increased to the continual flow, which has uplifted a life from its littleness of human aims and selfish endeavors, to the greater and higher one of a work for God.

Obedying the gentle intimations of the Holy Spirit, it manifested itself in the lines of my first verse—"The Royal Road"—which was published within the year in a local paper. So it came with great and greater frequency and richness, sanctifying and blessing its possessor with wondrous unfolding.

The return of the lines—Thoughts On Our Lord's Prayer—when offered for publication in the following year, January 5th, 1901, wrought such discouragement and despondency in the mind of the writer, as to lead the Lord to manifest His gracious approval and encouragement that very night, in a wondrous vision of ineffable light, as from His glory, filling a window square in outline, let in as it were on the blank wall of my room, through which the rays shone on my

face, to amaze my waking sight and strengthen me with this radiant manifestation of His approval to use my spiritual gift solely for His honor and glory.

As year succeeded year with the rich fruitage of the heavenly gift, more and more were published in the church periodicals for the uplifting of other lives.

The *Portraitures*, *Sonnets*, and *The Dual Life*, were direct leadings and inspirations of the Holy Spirit. Upon the completion of *The Dual Life* it again pleased the Lord to vouchsafe His approval of its writing and publication, by a second vision, on the night of October first, 1903, which was like a window or dome of light, in the ceiling over my bed, partly covered with a large open-work grating, through which the beams of light from the uncovered portion were streaming in my face. I awoke to see this wondrous sight and to behold the grating slide, to wholly cover the window, and so to disappear.

So what was so divinely given and sanctioned for the uplifting of a soul to God, I offer without apology to a public, that will likewise be quickened to new spiritual life, and closer communion with Him from whom all blessings flow, by its study and perusal.

Margaretta Ayres Karr

INTRODUCTION

The Heavenly Voice comprises,—The Dual Life, The Portraitures, and The Sonnets.

The Dual Life, is a narration of the divine and human nature of Christ, in blank verse diversified somewhat by rhymed verse. It is divided into seven great divisions, and seven subdivisions. The great divisions are—The Time, The Controversy, The Mystery, The Incarnation, The Presentation, The Question, and The Mission.

The Mission, is subdivided into seven other divisions, viz: The Birth of John the Baptist, The Baptism, The Temptation, The Work, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection, and The Ascension of Christ.

The Time, opens with an anthem of praise in rhymed verse, by the choir of the heavenly host, on the rest day of creation. It treats of the rebellion and fall of Satan from power, and closes in rhymed verse, with the angels' lament over his downfall.

The Controversy, opens with a description of heaven, and treats of the converse of the angels over the fall of man, and the controversy between the Father and the Son over his redemption; closing with an ascription of praise in rhymed verse, for the redeeming love.