THE GLAD WORLD AND OTHER SONGS

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The Glad World and Other Songs by J. W. Wright

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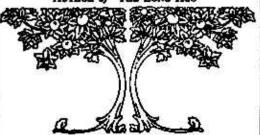
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The GLAD WORLD and OTHER SONGS By J W WRIGHT AUTHOR of "THE LONG AGO"



Diestrated by Ralph Fullerton Mocine

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UNIV. OF ALIFORNAS *

THE GLAD WORLD

- F OR me, no far-off heaven while I still breathe earth's air;
- (Come from an unknown country—going, I know not where);
- Given but fleeting glimpses of God's great Mystery;
- Shackled by sordid earth-chains; no one to set me free;
- Striving to know life's secret, dreading its strange, cold touch,
- Gaining, it seems, so little; losing so much, so much!
- Treading its far-stretched mazes, wond'ring what fate is mine,
- Despairing, with earth-born vision, to see the heights divine;
- Thrilled when for one quick moment I look beyond the veil,
- Downcast for years that follow, standing outside the pale;

- Seeking God's distant heaven, with none to tell me where.
- Sometimes knowing His presence, often in blank despair;
- Asking a thousand questions, given an answer to none,
- Running a circle race-course whose race is never done:
- Fearing to follow nature lest I be led astray, Doubting the word-prayer's power, yet ignorant how to pray;
- Seeking the tie that, somehow, we know links all mankind
- To the far-off Great Hereafter, and a God we cannot find.

This then: If He vouchsafes me, upon some gentle hill.

- A low brown cottage facing across the valley still,
- The red-breast linnets nesting within its shelt'ring vine,
- And insect wing-songs droning where rose and jassamine twine;
- A scraggly eucalyptus, bamboo, a deodar;
- A mocking-bird full-throated to greet the night's first star;
- The quail-call from the hillsides, faintanswered from below;
- The majesty of sunset; its gentler afterglow;
- A merry hearth-fire crackling inside the inglenook;
- Some strains of simple music, a song to sing, a book;
- A cheerful garden blooming; the scent of upturned sod;
- A comrade walking near me . . . (This on my knees, dear God!)

- The One Who Knows to read with—to laugh with in the sun;
- A gladsome heart to meet me when the day's work is done
- . If these can be my portion, I'll waive the Why and How
 - And risk the Great Hereafter—to take my heaven now!