

**LANTERNS IN GETHSEMANE: A  
SERIES OF BIBLICAL AND  
MYSTICAL POEMS IN REGARD TO  
THE CHRIST IN THE PRESENT  
CRISIS**

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Lanterns in Gethsemane: A Series of Biblical and Mystical Poems in Regard to the Christ in the Present Crisis by Willard Wattles

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**LANTERNS IN GETHSEMANE**

# Lanterns in Gethsemane

A Series of Biblical and Mystical Poems  
in regard to the Christ in the  
Present Crisis

BY

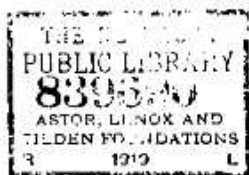
WILLARD WATTLES

*Neglect no small beginnings,  
Despise no village dearth:  
The influence of Nazareth  
Went out to all the earth.*

NEW YORK

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**TO MY FATHER AND MOTHER:**

**If there be aught of good within this book  
it is they who have dreamed the dream  
of passion and of faith**



Acknowledgment is made to the following publications in which poems from this book have been printed: the *Independent*, the *Outlook*, *Contemporary Verse*, the *Christian Register*, *Harper's Weekly*, the *Bookman*, the *Smart Set*, the *Lyric*, the *Midland*, the *University Kansan*, the *Graduate Magazine*, the *Springfield Republican*, the *Kansas City Star*, the *Emporia Gazette*, *Seven Arts*, the *Masses*, and *Poetry, A Magazine of Verse*.

## PREFACE

One hesitates to preface such a book as this with explanation. In many ways it were better to let the work, such as it is, meet its public without introduction. But the peculiar personal nature of the verse must, even unwillingly on the author's part, be made clear for the sake of those to whom some such explanation is due.

The poems of this book are the result of an experiment in living which grew out of two memorable experiences: one, the reading at about ten years of age of Rev. Charles M. Sheldon's "In His Steps"; the other the reading seven years later of "Each in His Own Tongue" by William Herbert Carruth.

The first of "Lanterns" to be written was "Gethsemane" in 1909, followed two years later by "The Wilderness." Such a poem as "Upon the Vatican" was planned for five years before being set on paper in the summer of 1918, and many others were in process of preparation for as long a time.

The material of the book has been drawn from the New Testament and from the lives of the author's friends and parents. Hence, in a certain sense he has been a reporter. Though conscious for long of certain tendencies toward a religious and spiritual awakening in Europe and America now patent to all observers, the author's method of composition has been to search constantly backward along the trail of memories for the living and breathing Christ as revealed most authentically in the heart. Later, he often has discovered that

his findings were not original, but were substantiated by history and theology. Perhaps his own conceptions may have deepened during these years of seeking; witness the two poems, "Ere Joseph Came to Build" and "He Speaks in Threes," the first composed in 1911, the second two years later. On the other hand, "The Builder" was written before George Moore had printed "The Brook Kerith" or Frank Harris had called the author's attention to Harris's "Miracle of the Stigmata," neither of which, in spite of its superior artistry, seems quite satisfactory in its interpretations. The writing of "Upon the Vatican" preceded the reading of any delineation of St. Peter by Edgar Lee Masters.

"An Ode for a New Christmas" was published in the *Christian Register*, December 18, 1913. In view of the nature of the stanzas on the War this fact may be of some interest. All the poems are personal, many of them being no more than transcriptions of letters from the author. "The Bells of Death" was written for his father; "He Speaks in Threes" for his sister; and "Against My Second Coming" for a member of the MacDowell Colony whose son had enlisted at the beginning of America's participation in the Great War. It was in the quiet haven of that colony in memorial to Edward MacDowell, Peterborough, N. H., that eight years of these writings were gathered together during the summer of 1917, and the ninth year planned.

It is not desirable here to reveal all the sources of this verse. Yet those who may recognize within it something of their own most gracious memories may welcome the assurance that this book is merely the record of a life blunderingly spent in the attempt to follow "in His steps," and cheered and strengthened by the brave hearts of the

"Millions who humble and nameless  
The straight hard pathway plod."