“God’s Lent Child”

I’ll lend you for a little while,  
A child of mine, God said—  
For you to love the child she lives,  
And mourn for when she’s dead.

It may be one  
or two years, or forty  
two or three, But will you ‘till I call  
er her back’ Take care of her for me?

She’ll bring her charm to gladden  
you, And (should her stay be brief) You’ll  
have her lovely memories, as a solace  
for your grief.

I cannot promise she will stay. Since  
all from earth return; But the lessons  
taught below, I want this child to learn.

I’ve looked the whole world over in  
search for teachers true; and from  
the things that crowd life’s lane  
I have chosen you.

Will you give her all your love?  
Nor think the task in vain? Nor hate  
me when I come to take, this  
lent child back again?

I fancied that I heard them say  
Dear Lord, Thy will be done. For  
joys Thy child will bring, the risk  
of grief will run.

We will shelter her with tenderness,  
We’ll love her while we may—  
And for the happiness we’ve known,  
Forever grateful stay.

But should Thy angels call for  
her much sooner than we’ve planned,  
We’ll brave the grief that comes  
and try to understand.

- Author Unknown