

"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
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.