

I Saw Him Standing

Words: Ann Griffiths (Welsh), trans. Rowan Williams Music: Matthew Pullar

F C/E Dmin
Under the dark trees, there he stands,
F C/E Dmin
there he stands; shall he not draw my eyes?
F G F
I thought I knew a little how
F Amin Dmin/A
how he compels, beyond all things,
G
but now he stands
F C/E Dmin
he stands there in the shadows. It will be
F C/E Dmin
Oh, such a daybreak, such bright morning,
F G F
when I shall wake to see him, oh
F Amin Dmin/A
when I shall wake to see him as
G
as he is.

He is called Rose of Sharon, for his skin
is clear, his skin is flushed with blood,
his body lovely and exact;
how he compels beyond ten thou-
sousand rivals.
There he stands, my friend, the friend of guilt,
the friend of guilt and helplessness,
to steer my hollow body o'er
to steer my hollow body o'er
over the sea.

The earth is full of masks and fetishes,
what is there here for me?
What, are these like him? No.
Keep company with him and you will know,
you will know:
no kin, no likeness to those empty eyes.
He is a stranger to them all.
What is there here for me? I know,
I know what I have longed for.
Him to hold
me always,
me always.

Under the dark trees, there he stands.