

A TIME OF MOURNING OR REDEMPTION?

SHOULD I ASK YOU BACK?

Should I ask you back?
We miss you here, yet faith rejoices
That you have joined those heavenly voices.
Nature sees the body dead
But faith holds the spirit fled.
Nature stops at Jordan's tide
But faith beholds the other side.

So you are gone
Now life seems black
And shall I ask to have you back?
Back -- and leave the Spirit's brightness?

Back -- and leave your robes of whiteness?
Back -- and leave the rock who feeds you?
Back -- from springs to which He leads you?
Back and leave your heavenly Father?
Back to earth and sin?

No, rather
I would resign to solitude . . .
I would not ask you if I could
But patient, wait my risen Lord
Till nature cuts the silver cord
And He who fashions all things new
Shall bring my spirit home to you.

DEATH FROM KIDS' PERSPECTIVES Death and dying is a subject that always is on the back burners of every mind from preschoolers to the oldest adult. Some nine-year-old children were asked what they thought of death and dying. Jim said, "When you die, they bury you in the ground and your soul goes to heaven, but your body can't go to heaven because it's too crowded up there already." Judy said, "Only the good people go to heaven. The other people go where it's hot all the time like in Florida." John said, "Maybe I'll die someday, but I hope I don't die on my birthday because it's no fun to celebrate your birthday if you're dead." Marsha commented, "When you die, you don't have to do homework in heaven, unless your teacher is there too."

THE DOOR "ENTER."

Death is a door with two sides. One side says "EXIT" and the other side says

The closer we come to the negative, to death, the more we blossom.

—Montgomery Clift

THE END OF THE ROAD IS BUT A BEND IN THE ROAD

When we feel we have nothing left to give and we are sure that the "song has ended" --
When our day seems over and the shadows fall and the darkness of night has descended --
Where do we go to find the strength to keep on trying? --
Where can we find the hand that will dry the tears that the heart is crying? --
There's but one place to go -- and that is to God and, dropping all pretense and pride --
We can pour out our problems without restraint and gain strength with Him at our side --
And together we stand at life's crossroads and view what we think is the end --
But God has a much bigger vision and He tells us it's ONLY A BEND --
For the road goes on and is smoother, and the "pause in the song" is a "rest" --
And the part that's unsung and unfinished is the sweetest and richest and best --
So rest and relax and grow stronger, LET GO and LET GOD share your load --
Your work is not finished or ended, you've just come to a "BEND IN THE ROAD."

Author unknown.