

L ORD, if one moment Thou Thy face shouldst hide,
Or cloud Thy glory, or Thy smile deny,
Then would all nature veil her mournful eyes,
And vent her grief in universal cries:
Then certain death, with all its dismal train,
Would o'er the nations spread its tragic reign.

- 2 See all creation, in such splendour born,
Now, with her hosts to native dust return;
But when again Thy glory is displayed,
She shall revive and lift her radiant head;
New rising forms Thine order shall obey,
And life rekindle at Thy stirring ray.
- 3 United thanks replenished nature pays,
And Heaven and earth resound their Maker's praise!
When time shall in eternity be lost,
And ageing nature languish into dust;
For ever young, new marvels shall remain,
Vast as Thy Being, endless as Thy reign.
- 4 When, at Thy word, my soul excursive flies
Through earth and air into Thy regal skies,
From world to world, new wonders shall I find,
As all the Godhead dawns upon my mind!
To Thee, my soul shall endless praises pay:
Joined with the angels in eternal day.

Thomas Blacklock, 1721-91