

BLOOD-RED-ROSE

From distant darkness
far beyond our knowing
darts a star
 across the horizon of our lives
 a light like a blossom
 that blooms and fades;
a light that dies
 and rises again
 from beneath the frozen snow of destiny
 of human love and hate and fear;

A one-time gift
 that never fails
 to reappear;
that once-for-all-rejected
 offers itself
 again and yet again.

Blood-Red-Rose
 cut from stump and stem
 of Jesse's tree—
 God's Gift set free
 for all humanity.

From far beyond the stars
 and cosmic dreams;
from farthest reaches of space and time,
your word is sent, O God,
 to set our hearts ablaze
 to turn another page
 of history.

We the deaf the blind the lame,
the naked and the homeless;
we wait again and yet again
to hear your healing Word of Peace:
Emmanuel.

- Brother John

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