

SUFFERETH LONG



SUFFERETH LONG:
To be patient, to endure, to
persevere, without retaliation,
slow to anger

1-8

*I shine the light through the wind and storm;
Let the ship out in the deep **see me**.*

*The waves cover my beam, don't hide my light;
Keep my light on, Lord: I will stay strong, to endure this night.*

*Dark is the call of this terrible darkness: **Unto Thee I cry;**
Unto Thee, Lord: guide my hands; **can't see, but I lay;***

*Strengthen my arms, **hold strong my feel;**
they are cold and weary, **Lord: make the darkness flee.***

***I go on, I go on:** I've been here **a thousand nights;**
Listen, do you hear them? Out of the storm **I hear their plight.***

***I will stay and shine** through the **rains that bend me;**
I beam out to sea, I hear their shouts: **Rescue me!***

*My neck is aching, my fingers freeze; **To Thee I cry:**
O light of my soul, I am strong, **I will never deny:***

*In the depths of me **I suffer long;**
I can feel the day coming on: **You keep me!***

*I was imprisoned in shackles and shame,
I endured the rough waters; I kept my temper cool.*

*It was hard to not fight back; I persevered.
I worked and I fought my anger; it burned within me; I endured.*

*Through the lashings and beatings, through the hot desperate days, the long hungry nights,
I waited in suffered silence for my freedom to ignite.*

*In an instant... in the distance... I saw it... can it be?
I saw it, I saw the light! Promising warmth and safety.*

*A shining beacon of hope and strength.
As the jailor recalls his journey of suffering suddenly a knock at the door.*

*The authorities have come to take him, he's not looking to even the score.
Two men's hearts joined now as one: the Keeper loves the jailor even as a son.*

*The jailor holds the hand tightly; his life he would freely give
For this jailor, no longer a stranger who would suffer so, yet forgive.*

*I'll stay with you through the ending; nothing can prevent me;
To stand by one so long suffering, who forgives in all of Charity.*

THE KEEPER & THE JAILOR

The KEEPER, whipped and drenched by the stormy winds and sea, **keeps watch.**

*Night after night, holding **steady the light,**
in the distance he sees the ship's faint light.*

*As he combs the shore,
he finds a man, **broken and torn.***

*Helping him, he finds a soul akin to his own.
One who has held steady in the fight; **he is a jailor.***

*He has escaped his mutinous ship, but the authorities are soon to follow,
I falsely accused of mistreating his prisoners; so false! So hollow!*

*They sit and talk of his tumultuous, **long journey;**
Which has led him to this **lighthouse,** to this shore, to this **keeper.***

*His story fills the **keeper's** heart as he listens to his suffering.
Though battered and bruised, yet there is **forgiveness** in this jailor's eyes.*

The **jailor** continues...

The I AM saith *Father,*

*forgive them; for they know not
what they do.*

*I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until
seventy times seven.*

*O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you?
how long shall I suffer you; bring him unto me.*

*I fear what the unjust Judge saith. And shall not God
avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto
him, though he bear long with them?*

*For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles; and shall
be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on;
And they shall scourge him, and put him to death;
and the third day he shall rise again.*

CHARITY
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