

FULFILLMENT

As needy pauper in the midst of prince and priest,
I gathered borrowed wisdom from the West and East,
yet finding meager mental state and stores increased,
I still felt bleak and barren, bordering on gloom.

While feeding famished sight on flow'r and beast,
devouring life's delights from heights to nature's least,
I sensed my distance from these treasuries increased
and my own deepest self not yet unfurled in bloom.

When married magic—once my single life had ceased—
meant kneading dough for bread that needed labor's yeast,
enjoyment of both work and family increased,
but left a longing ache within faith's inner room.

Then Christ's indwelling presence, by His Cross released,
fulfilled my depths of hunger through His Table's feast:
all other gracious gems of earthly joy increased,
and greater gifts of grace now wait beyond the tomb.

— *David L. Hatton, 4/20/2020*